

FOUNDATION ENGLISH - 2

SECTION-C (LITERATURE)

GLIMPSES OF INDIA

PART-1 : BAKER FROM GOA

SUMMARY

Bread Making in Goa

This is a pen portrait of the traditional Goan village baker, who is still remembered by Goans. Bread making started from the Portuguese days. They were the lovers of bread. Bread making was an art which needed perfection. Mixing, moulding and baking were the areas of specialisation of making a bread. The loaves were baked in time tested furnaces. This profession has been continued by the baker's descendants.

Recalling The Author's Childhood Days

During author's childhood days, he remembers the baker used to be their friend, companion and guide. He used to visit twice a day, once in the morning during his selling hours and then again while returning after selling all his bread. The jingling thud of the bamboo he carried woke them up in the morning and they ran to meet and greet him. They ran for getting their bread bangles, which were specially made of sweet bread.

**Delivering the Loaves**

As the baker came, he would call out the lady of the house and wish her 'Good Morning'. The children were pushed aside and the loaves were delivered to the maid servant. The author recalls the aroma of loaves that filled the air. The children would not even brush their teeth and loved eating bangles made of bread with tea.

Importance of Bread in Traditional Ceremonies

The various kinds of bread were very important for all occasions. No marriage was complete until and unless the traditional *bol* was served. The lady of the house prepared sandwiches on the occasion of her daughter's engagement and *bolinhas* would be prepared for Christmas and other festivals.

The Baker's Outfit

The baker was usually dressed in a *kabai*, a long frock reaching down to the knees or a shirt and trousers which were shorter than full-length ones and longer than half pants. Even today if anyone dares to go out in the streets wearing half pants, he is referred to as a pader (means baker).

Bread Making - A Profitable Profession

The baker usually collected his bills at the end of the month. All the accounts were written on some wall in the premises with a pencil. It was a profitable profession during those days because Portuguese were lovers of fresh baked loaves. The baker, his family members and his servants looked prosperous and happy.

NCERT SOLVED QUESTIONS

Oral Comprehension Check

1. What are the elders in Goa nostalgic about?

Ans. The elders in Goa are nostalgic about those good old Portuguese days, the Portuguese and their famous loaves of bread. The eaters of loaves might have vanished but the makers are still there.

2. Is bread-making still popular in Goa? How do you know?

Ans. Yes, bread-making is still popular in Goa. I know this by these lines given in the text. We still have amongst us the mixers, the moulders and those who bake the loaves. Those age-old, time-tested furnaces still exist. The son still carries on the family profession.

3. What is the baker called?

Ans. The baker is called 'pader' in Goa.

4. When would the baker come everyday? Why did the children run to meet him?

Ans. The baker would come everyday once, when he set out in the morning on his selling round and then again, when he returned after emptying his huge basket. The children ran to meet him for choosing their bread-bangles.

5. **Match the following. What is a must :**

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| (i) as marriage gifts? | – cakes and bolinhas |
| (ii) for a party or a feast? | – sweet bread called 'bol' |
| (iii) for a daughter's engagement | – bread |
| (iv) for Christmas? | – sandwiches |

Ans. (i) as marriage gifts – sweet bread called 'bol'
 (ii) for a party or a feast – bread
 (iii) for a daughter's engagement – sandwiches
 (iv) for Christmas – cakes and bolinhas

6. What did the bakers wear : (i) in the Portuguese days? (ii) when the author was young?

Ans. (i) In the Portuguese days, the bakers wore kabai-a single piece long frock reaching down to the knees.
 (ii) When the author was young, the bakers wore a shirt and trousers, shorter than full length ones and longer than half pants.

7. Who invites the comment - "he is dressed like a pader"? Why?

Ans. Anyone who wears a half pant which reaches just below the knees invites this comment. It is so because in those good cold days a 'pader' used to wear such type of dress.

8. Where were the monthly accounts of the baker recorded?

Ans. The baker usually collected his bills at the end of the month. Baking being indeed a profitable profession in the old days, monthly accounts used to be recorded on some wall in pencil.

9. What does a 'jackfruit-like appearance' mean?

Ans. Baking being a profitable business, the baker, his family and his servants always looked happy and prosperous. Their plump physique was an open testimony to this.

Thinking About The Text

1. Which of these statements are correct?

- The pader was an important person in the village in old times.
- Paders still exist in Goan villages.
- The paders went away with the Portuguese.
- The paders continue to wear a single-piece long frock.
- Bread and cakes were an integral part of Goan life in the old days.
- Traditional bread-baking is still a very profitable business.
- Paders and their families starve in the present times.

Ans. (i) Correct, (ii) Correct, (iii) Incorrect, (iv) Incorrect,
 (v) Correct, (vi) Correct, (vii) Incorrect.

2. Is bread an important part of Goan life? How do you know this?

Ans. Yes, bread is an important part of Goan life. I know it by the following information of the text. "Marriage gifts are meaningless and a party or a feast loses its charm without bread. Sandwiches are prepared on daughter's engagement."



3. Tick the right answer. What is the tone of the author when he says the following?
- (i) The thud and the jingle of the traditional baker's bamboo can still be heard in some places. (nostalgic, hopeful, sad)
 - (ii) May be the father is not alive but the son still carries on the family profession. (nostalgic, hopeful, sad)
 - (iii) I still recall the typical fragrance of those loaves. (nostalgic, hopeful, naughty)
 - (iv) The tiger never brushed his teeth. Hot tea could wash and clean up everything so nicely, after all. (naughty, angry, funny)
 - (v) Cakes and bolinhas are a must for Christmas as well as other festivals. (sad, hopeful, matter-of-fact)
 - (vi) The baker and his family never starved. They always looked happy and prosperous. (matter-of-fact, hopeful, sad)

Ans. (i) hopeful, (ii) hopeful, (iii) nostalgic, (iv) funny, (v) matter-of-fact, (vi) matter of fact.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions.

1. We kids would be pushed aside with a mild rebuke and the loaves would be delivered to the servant. But we would not give up. We would climb a bench or the parapet and peep into the basket, somehow. I can still recall the typical fragrance of those loaves. Loaves for the elders and the bangles for the children.
- (a) Who are 'we' in the extract?
 - (b) Why were the children pushed aside?
 - (c) Which word / phrase in the extract means the same as 'an expression of disapproval / a scolding'?
 - (d) What was there in the basket?

- Ans. (a) 'We' in the extract refers to the narrator and his friends.
 (b) The kids were pushed aside so that the breads could be delivered to the servants.
 (c) Rebuke.
 (d) There were some loaves for the elders and some bangles made of bread for the children.

2. Marriage gifts are meaningless without the sweet bread known as the *bol*, just as a party or a feast loses its charm without bread. Not enough can be said to show how important a baker can be for a village. The lady of the house must prepare sandwiches on the occasion of her daughter's engagement. Cakes and *bolinhas* are a must for Christmas as well as other festivals. Thus, the presence of the baker's furnace in the village is absolutely essential.
- (a) What are compulsorily prepared during Christmas in Goa?
 - (b) Why is a baker necessary in a village?
 - (c) Find the word in the extract which means 'celebration meal'.
 - (d) What is must to be prepared on a daughter's engagement by a lady?

- Ans. (a) During Christmas cakes and *bolinhas* are compulsorily prepared in Goa.
 (b) A baker is necessary in a village for preparation different kinds of breads for daily consumption as well as for special occasions.
 (c) Feast.
 (d) The lady of the house must prepare sandwiches on the occasion of her daughter's engagement.

3. The baker usually collected his bills at the end of the month. Monthly accounts used to be recorded on some wall in pencil. Baking was indeed a profitable profession in the old days. The baker and his family never starved. He, his family and his servants always looked happy and prosperous. Their plump physique was an open testimony to this. Even today any person with a jackfruit-like physical appearance is easily compared to a baker.

- (a) Where did the baker record his accounts?
- (b) Why did the baker and his family never starve?
- (c) Which word in the extract is a synonym of 'build'?
- (d) How can a baker be identified in Goa?

Ans. (a) The baker recorded his accounts on some wall in pencil.

(b) The baker and his family never starved because baking was a profitable profession.

(c) Physique.

(d) Any person with a Jackfruit-like physical appearance is easily identified to a baker as their pump physique is an open testimony of their happiness and prosperity.

4. Our elders are often heard reminiscing nostalgically about those good old Portuguese days, the Portuguese and their famous loaves of bread. Those eaters of loaves might have vanished but the makers are still there. We still have amongst us the mixers, the moulders and those who bake the loaves. Those age-old, time-tested furnaces still exist. The fire in the furnaces has not yet been extinguished. The thud and jingle of the traditional baker's bamboo, heralding his arrival in the morning, can still be heard in some places.

- (a) What do the elders reminisce?
- (b) What makes the baker's entry musical?
- (c) 'We still have amongst us _____.' Who said these word? What is he referring to?
- (d) Find out the word from the passage which means 'customary'.

Ans. (a) The elders reminisce those good old Portuguese days, the Portuguese and their famous loaves of bread.

(b) The thud and jingle of the traditional baker's bamboo makes the baker's entry musical.

(c) The narrator said these words and 'he' refers to Goan mixers, moulders and bakers of loaves.

(d) Traditional.

5. I can still recall the typical fragrance of those loaves. Loaves for the elder and the bangles for the children. Then we did not even care to brush our teeth or wash our mouths properly. And why should we? Who would take the trouble of plucking the mango leaf for the toothbrush? And why was it necessary at all? The tiger never brushed his teeth. Hot tea could wash and clean up everything so nicely, after all!

- (a) What two edibles were brought by the baker for the elders and the children?
- (b) What would the kids use as a toothbrush?
- (c) Why, according to the author, isn't the need of brushing teeth?
- (d) Pick out from the passage the word which means 'sweet smell'.

- Ans.** (a) The two edibles are loaves for the elders and the bangles made of bread for the children.
 (b) The kids would use the mango-leaf as a toothbrush.
 (c) According to the author, there isn't need of brushing teeth because the hot tea can wash and clean up everything.
 (d) Fragrance.

6. The baker or bread seller of those days had a peculiar dress known as the *kabai*. It was a single piece long frock reaching down to the knees. In our childhood we saw bakers wearing a shirt and trousers which were shorter than full-length ones and longer than half pants. Even today, anyone who wears a half pant which reaches just below the knees invites the comment that he is dressed like a *pader*!

- (a) What is 'kabai'?
 (b) Who is 'pader'?
 (c) '.....a single piece long frock.....'

(1) baker's stick (2) baker's loaves (3) baker's basket (4) baker's dress

(d) Find from the passage the word which means 'unusual or strange'.

- Ans.** (a) 'Kabai' is the baker's or bread-seller's peculiar dress.
 (b) 'Pader' is the Goan name for a baker or a bread-seller.
 (c) (4) baker's dress
 (d) Peculiar.



SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. What did the baker do first once he reached a house?

Ans. The baker would first greet the lady of the house by saying "Good Morning". He would then place the basket, on the vertical bamboo and deliver the loaves to the servant.

2. What makes the baker's entry musical?

Ans. The baker makes his entry musical. He walks with the 'jhang, jhang' sound of his specially made bamboo staff. One hand supports the basket on his head and the other bangs the bamboo on the ground.

3. How is the baker's dress?

Ans. The bakers had a peculiar dress – *kabai*, a single piece long frock reaching down the knees. In the author's childhood, they wore a shirt and trousers shorter than full length ones and longer than half pants.

4. What kind of business was baking considered in the old days?

Ans. Baking was indeed a profitable business in the old days. The baker and his family never starved. The baker, his family and his servants always looked happy and prosperous. Their plump physique was an open testimony to this.

5. How can you say that the presence of the baker's furnace in the village is absolutely necessary?

Ans. Marriage gifts were considered meaningless without the sweet bread known as the 'bol'. A party or a feast loses its charm without bread. It is a must for the lady of the house to prepare sandwiches on the occasion of her daughter's engagement. Cakes and 'bolinas' are a must for Christmas as well as other festivals. Thus, the presence of the baker's furnace in the village is absolutely necessary.

6. Why did the child-author and the other kids not care to brush their teeth or wash their mouths properly?

Ans. The child-author and the other kids didn't care to brush their teeth or wash their mouths properly because they didn't want to take the trouble of plucking the mango-leaf for the toothbrush and it was not necessary at all according to them. They argued, the tiger never brushed his teeth and that the hot tea could wash and clean up everything so nicely.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words.

1. After reading the story 'A Baker from Goa', do you think our traditions, heritage, values and practices are the roots that nourish us? Why/why not?

Ans. 'A Baker from Goa' highlights the importance of the traditional practice of making breads for every occasion and festival of the Goan people. This tradition continues even today. This shows how our traditional practices can keep us to our past and heritage.

Traditional values shape our personality and also provide us emotional support. They enable us to face difficult situations and make us mentally strong. Traditional practices also have an impact on our behavioural pattern towards the other people in society.

2. 'During our childhood in Goa, the baker used to be our friend, companion and guide.' What does this statement imply in relation to the character of the baker?

Ans. This statement tells us that the baker was a very respected person in the Goan society because he would guide the children about good behaviour (when he mildly rebuked them for peeping into his basket) and giving respect to the elders (when he wished "Good morning" to the lady of the house) etc. He was very informal with the children and so the author considered him as a friend and companion. He was not simply a vendor interested in selling what he made. Thus, he was an important character in the Goan society of those days.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

Answer the following questions.

- 1.** What do you know about the sensuousness of the child-author and the other kids for the loaves?
- 2.** How, according to the author, was the baker friend, companion and guide in his childhood?
- 3.** How do we get to know that the makers of bread still exist?
- 4.** How did the baker attract the children?
- 5.** Comment on the importance of bread baker in a traditional Goan village?
- 6.** Describe the childhood memories of the author's time in Goa and his fondness for breads and cakes?

PART-2 : COORG

SUMMARY

Coorg - A Heavenly Place

Coorg district of Karnataka lies between the towns of Mysore and Mangalore. It is like a heaven on Earth. It is inhabited by martial men beautiful women and wild creatures.

Weather and Environment of Coorg

It is the smallest district of Karnataka. It consists of evergreen forests, spices and coffee plantations. The best season to visit Coorg starts in September and continues upto March. The weather in Coorg is pleasant during those months.

People of Coorg

The people here are possibly of Greek or Arabic descent. According to a legend, Alexander's army moved South along the coast and settled there only when they were unable to return to their country. These people married among the locals and their culture can be witnessed by their martial traditions, marriages and religious rites. The Kodavus (residents of Coorg) wear a long black coat with an embroidered waist belt known as *Kuppia*, it resembles *kuffia* worn by the Arabs and the Kurds.



Kodavu people

Bravery Tales of Coorg

Coorg people are well-known for their bravery. The Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated regiments of the Indian Army. General Cariappa, the first Indian Army Chief, was a Coorgi. Even today, only the Kodavus are permitted to carry firearms without a licence.

Wildlife In Coorg

Coorg is home to a large number of wild animals and birds. Mahaseer, a large freshwater fish, is found here. Kingfishers, squirrels and langurs live without any fear. Wild elephants enjoy being bathed and scrubbed in the river by their mahouts. The river Kaveri gets its water from the hills of Coorg.

Coorg - A Tourist Place

Even the laziest tourists become adventurous on coming to Coorg as it is full of adventure sports like river rafting, canoeing, rock climbing etc. The climb to Brahmagiri hills bring smiles to many faces as one can see the panoramic view of Coorg from there.

Nature at Its Best

India's largest Tibetan settlement at Bylakuppe is inhabited by monks in red, ochre and yellow robes. There are many more surprises waiting at Coorg for the tourists to discover.

Reaching Coorg

Coorg can be reached by road and by rail. If one prefers to go by air, then the nearest airports are Bangalore and Mangalore. By road, it is around 250 - 260 km from Bangalore.

NCERT SOLVED QUESTIONS

Thinking about the text

1. Where is Coorg?

Ans. Coorg is the smallest district of Karnataka. It is situated midway between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore. It looks like a piece of heaven drifted from the kingdom of God.

2. What is the story about the Kodavu people's descent?

Ans. They are possibly of Greek or Arabic descent. It is believed that a part of Alexander's army moved south along the coast and settled there when return became impractical. They married amongst the locals. Their culture is distinct from the Hindu mainstream.

3. What are some of the things you know about :

- (i) the people of Coorg?
- (ii) the main crop of Coorg?
- (iii) the sports it offers to tourists?
- (iv) the animals you are likely to see in Coorg?
- (v) its distance from Bangalore, and how to get there?

- Ans.** (i) The people of Coorg are possibly of Greek or Arabic descent. They put on 'kuppia'-a long, black coat with an embroidered waist-belt. Coorgi homes have a tradition of hospitality. They tell tales of valour related to their sons and fathers. Coorg regiment is one of the most decorated in the Indian Army. They have permission to carry firearms without a licence.
- (ii) The main crop of Coorg is of coffee and spices.
- (iii) It offers the following sports to tourists-river rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing and mountain biking.
- (iv) The following animals we are likely to see in Coorg-elephants, langurs, Macaques, slender loris and Malabar squirrels, besides these Mahaseer-a large fresh water fish, kingfishers, bees, butterflies and birds also.
- (v) Its distance from Bangalore is around 250-260 km. We can get there by air, rail, and road. There are flights to Mangalore from Mumbai, and to Bangalore from Ahmedabad, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Pune. The nearest railheads are at Mysore, Mangalore and Hassan. The road route via Mysore is the most frequent one. The other route is via Neelamangal, Kunigal, Chanrayanapatta.

4. Here are six sentences with some words in italics. Find phrases from the text that have the same meaning. (Look in the paragraphs indicated)

- (i) During monsoons it rains so heavily that tourists do not visit Coorg. (para 2)
- (ii) Some people say that Alexander's army moved south along the coast and settled there. (para 3)
- (iii) The Coorg people are always ready to tell stories of their sons' and father's valour. (para 4)
- (iv) Even people who normally lead an easy and slow life get smitten by the high-energy adventure sports of Coorg. (para 6)
- (v) The theory of the Arab origin is supported by the long coat with embroidered waist-belt they wear. (para 3)
- (vi) Macaques, Malabar squirrels observe you carefully from the tree canopy. (para 7)

- Ans.** (i) During the monsoons, it pours enough to keep many visitors away.
- (ii) As one story goes, a part of Alexander's army moved south along the coast and settled here when return became impractical.
- (iii)they are more than willing to recount numerous tales of valour related to their sons and fathers.
- (iv) The most laid back individuals become converts to the life of high-energy adventure with river rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing and mountain biking.
- (v) The theory of the Arab origin draws support from the long, black coat with an embroidered waist-belt worn by the Kodavus.
- (vi) Macaques, Malabar squirrels, langurs and slender loris keep a watchful eye from the tree canopy.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions.

- 1.** The fiercely independent people of Coorg are possibly of Greek or Arabic descent. As one story goes, a part of Alexander's army moved south along the coast and settled here when return became impractical. These people married amongst the locals and their culture is apparent in the martial traditions, marriage and religious rites, which are distinct from the Hindu mainstream. The theory of Arab origin draws support from the long, black coat with an embroidered waist-belt worn by the Kodavus, known as kuppia, it resembles the kuffia worn by the Arabs and the Kurds.
- (a) What does the author say about the descent of the people of Coorg?
- (b) Why did a part of Alexander's army settle here?
- (c) Which things show that their culture is distinct from the Hindu mainstream?
- (d) What is so similar between the Kodavus and the Arabs?

- Ans.** (a) The author says that the people of Coorg are possibly of Greek or Arabic descent.
- (b) They settled here because their return had become impractical.
- (c) Their martial traditions, marriage and religious rites show that they are distinct from the Hindu mainstream.
- (d) The long black coat with an embroidered waist-belt known as kuppia or kuffia is so similar to the one worn by the Arabs.



2. Coorg homes have a tradition of hospitality, and they are more than willing to recount numerous tales of valour related to their sons and fathers. The Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated in the Indian Army, and the first Chief of the Indian Army, General Cariappa, was a Coorgi. Even now, Kodavus are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a licence.

- What do the Coorgi people recount?
- What do you know about General Cariappa?
- Who can carry firearms without a licence?
- Pick out from the passage the word which means 'bravery'.

- Ans.** (a) The Coorgi people recount numerous tales of valour related to their sons and fathers.
(b) General Cariappa, the first chief of the Indian Army was a Coorgi.
(c) Kodavus are the only people in India who can carry firearms without a licence.
(d) Valour.

3. The climb to the Brahmagiri hills brings you into a panoramic view of the entire misty landscape of Coorg. A walk across the rope bridge leads to the sixty-four-acre island of Nisargadhama. Running into Buddhist monks from India's largest Tibetan settlement, at nearby Bylakuppe, is a bonus. The monks in red, ochre and yellow robes, are amongst the many surprises that wait to be discovered by visitors searching for the heart and soul of India, right here in Coorg.



Panoramic view – Brahmagiri Hills

- What is the name of the island mentioned here and what is its area?
- Who are amongst the many surprises in Coorg?
- '.....panoramic view.....'

The writer means :

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| (1) view over a wide area of land | (2) view over a small area |
| (3) view over an ocean | (4) none of these |

- (d) Find out from the passage the word which means 'a piece of land surrounded by water'.

- Ans.** (a) The island is Nisargadhama and the area is 64 acres.
(b) Buddhist monks are amongst the many surprises in Coorg.
(c) (1) view over a wide are of land.
(d) Island.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. How does the story 'Coorg' open?

- Ans.** The story, Coorg, opens with the information about its location between Mysore and Mangalore. The author calls it a piece of heaven. This land of rolling hills is inhabited by a proud race of martial mean, beautiful women and wild creatures.

2. Coorgis are hospitable by nature. Explain.

- Ans.** Coorgis are a proud race of martial men and beautiful women. They are very hospitable and entertain their guests by relating stories of bravery of their sons and fathers.

3. How can you say that Coorg people are valorous?

- Ans.** The Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated in the Indian Army. The first chief of the Indian Army, General Cariappa, was a Coorgi. Kodavus are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a licence.

4. Why are the people of Coorg known as descendants of the Arabs?

- Ans.** The theory of the people of Coorg as descendants of the Arabs draws support from the long, black coat with an embroidered waist-belt worn by the Kodavus known as kuppia. It resembles the kuffia worn by the Arabs and the Kurds.

5. How does the most laidback individuals become converts to the life of high-energy adventure in Coorg?

- Ans.** The most laidback individuals become converts to the life of high energy adventure with river rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing and mountain biking. Numerous walking trails in this region are a favourite with trekkers.

6. What does the author say about the birds, bees, butterflies and other wild animals?

Ans. Birds, bees and butterflies are there to give the visitors company. Macaques, Malabar squirrels, langurs and slender loris keep a watchful eye from the tree canopy. The author, however, does prefer to step aside for wild elephants.

7. The people of Coorg have a tradition of courage and bravery. How has it been recognized in modern India?

Ans. Coorgis are a proud race of martial men and beautiful women. They are very hospitable and entertain their guests by relating stories of bravery of their sons and fathers. Coorg soldiers are brave. Coorg regiment is one of the most decorated ones in the Indian army. Coorgies are the only people who are permitted to carry firearms without a licence.

8. How does the climb to the Brahmagiri hills bring you into a panoramic view of Coorg?

Ans. You can see the misty landscape of Coorg. After a walk across the rope-bridge, you can see 64 acre island of Nisargadhama. Near Bylakuppe, there is India's largest Tibetan settlement. The Buddhist monks in red, ochre and yellow robes are amongst the many surprises. The people in search of spirituality come here in Coorg.

9. What does the writer say about Coorg?

Ans. The writer says that Coorg is the smallest district of Karnataka. It is known as Kodagu also. Coorg lies between the coastal town of Mangalore and Mysore. It is a very beautiful place. The writer says that it must have come from the kingdom of God.

10. What do you know about the season of joy in Coorg?

Ans. In Coorg, the season of joy commences from September and continues till March. The weather is perfect, with some showers thrown in for good measure. The air breathes of invigorating coffee. Coffee estates and colonial bungalows stand tucked under tree canopies in prime corners. But during the monsoon season it pours enough to keep many visitor away from it.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words.

1. What does the author say about the people of Coorg?

Ans. The writer says that the people of Coorg are independent and brave. They are of Greek or Arabic descent. According to a story, a part of Alexander's army did not return and was settled here. They married among the locals. This culture can be seen in the martial traditions, marriage and religious customs. According to another theory Coorg people originated from the Arabs. It is evident from the long, black coat worn by the people. It is like the kuffia worn by the Arabs and the Kurds. Coorgi homes have a tradition of hospitality. They are brave people. Their tales of bravery are famous. The Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated in the Indian Army. The first Chief of the Indian Army, General Cariappa, was a Coorgi. Even today, the Kodavus are the only people in India who are allowed to carry firearms without a licence.

2. What does the writer say about the natural beauty of Coorg?

Ans. Coorg is situated in Karnataka midway between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore. It looks like a piece of heaven that must have drifted from the kingdom of God. This is a land of rolling hills. It is a home of evergreen rainforests, spices and coffee plantations. Evergreen forests cover thirty per cent of Coorg district. The river Kaveri flows through Coorg. Big elephants are also found here. Birds, bees and butterflies are there to give the visitors company. The climb to the Brahmagiri hills brings (the visitors) into a panoramic view of the entire misty landscape of Coorg. It is said that the people searching for the heart and soul of India visit Coorg.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

Answer the following questions.

1. What does the writer say about the bravery of the Coorgi people?

2. What supports the theory that the people of Coorg originated from the Arabs?

3. What is Coorg famous for? What is the best season to visit Coorg?

4. The people of Coorg have a tradition of courage and bravery. How has it been recognized in modern India?

5. Coorg is a tourist's paradise. Discuss with reference to the extract from 'Glimpses of India'.

PART-3 : TEA FROM ASSAM

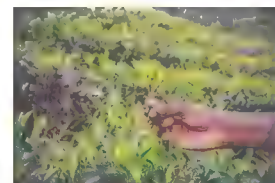
SUMMARY

Rajvir's Visit to Assam

Rajvir and Pranjol were travelling to Assam by train as Pranjol had invited Rajvir to visit his home during the summer vacation. Rajvir was very excited to see the beautiful scenery of greenery and tea plantations outside. Rajvir told Pranjol that over eighty crore cups of tea are drunk everyday throughout the world.

The Beautiful Tea Gardens

Rajvir looked at the scenery outside and was mesmerised by its beauty. The view from the train was also panoramic. There was greenery everywhere. The soft green paddy fields gave way to tea bushes. Tea bushes were spread as far as the eye could see.



Tea Garden

Legends about Discovery of Tea

There are many legends about the discovery of tea. The Chinese legend says that a few tea leaves accidentally fell into boiling water which the emperor tasted and liked, tea making started.

Indian legend tells that a Buddhist monk cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditations. Ten tea plants grew out of these eyelids. The leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drunk, drove away sleep.

Chinese - The Tea Lovers

Rajvir told Pranjol that tea was first drunk in China, words like 'chai' and 'chini' are of Chinese origin. From China, it spread to Europe and then to Asia. Earlier tea was drunk more as a medicine than as a beverage.

Dhekiabari

The boys alighted at Mariani junction. Soon, they were driving towards Dhekiabari, the tea garden managed by Pranjol's father. Groups of tea pluckers, with bamboo baskets on their backs and wearing plastic aprons, plucking the newly sprouted leaves, could be seen everywhere. Pranjol's father told them that the best tea is obtained during the period of May to July.

NCERT SOLVED QUESTIONS

1. Use these words appropriately in the sentences below. You may consult a dictionary.

upkeep, downpour, undergo, dropout, walk-in. (keep, pour, go, drop, walk) (up, down, under, out, in)

(i) A heavy _____ has been forecast due to low pressure in the Bay of Bengal.

(ii) Rakesh will _____ major surgery tomorrow morning.

(iii) My brother is responsible for the _____ of our family property.

(iv) The rate for this _____ in accountancy course is very high.

(v) She went to the Enterprise Company to attend a _____ interview.

Ans. (i) downpour, (ii) undergo, (iii) upkeep, (iv) dropout, (v) walk-in.

2. Now fill in the blanks in the sentences given below by combining the verb given in brackets with one of the words from the box as appropriate.

over, by, through, out, up, down

(i) The Army attempted unsuccessfully to _____ the Government. (throw)

(ii) Scientists are on the brink of a major _____ in cancer research. (break)

(iii) The State Government plans to build a _____ for Bhubaneswar to speed up traffic on the main highway. (pass)

(iv) Gautama's _____ on life changed when he realised that the world is full of sorrow. (look)

(v) Rakesh seemed _____ unusually after the game. (cast)

Ans. (i) overthrow, (ii) breakthrough, (iii) bypass, (iv) outlook, (v) downcast

PRACTICE QUESTIONS
EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions.

1. The train pulled out of the station. Pranjol buried his nose in his detective book again. Rajvir too was an ardent fan of detective stories, but at the moment he was keener on looking at the beautiful scenery. It was green, green everywhere. Rajvir had never seen so much greenery before. Then the soft green paddy fields gave way to tea bushes.

It was a magnificent view. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills, a sea of tea bushes stretched as far as the eye could see. Dwarfing the tiny tea plants were tall sturdy shade-trees and amidst the orderly rows of bushes busily moved doll-like figures. In the distance was an ugly building with smoke billowing out of tall chimneys.

- (a) What kind of scenery was it?
(b) What was there as far as the eye could see?
(c) What was there in the distance?
(d) Find a word from the passage which means 'spread'.

Ans. (a) The scenery was very beautiful. There was greenery everywhere.

- (b) There were tea bushes as far as the eye could see.
(c) In the distance, there was an ugly building with smoke coming out of its chimney.
(d) Stretched.

2. "We have an Indian legend too. Bodhidharma, an ancient Buddhist ascetic, cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditations. Ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids. The leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drunk banished sleep."

"Tea was first drunk in China," Rajvir added, "as far as 2700 B.C.! In fact words such as 'tea', 'chai' and 'chin'; are from Chinese. Tea came to Europe only in the sixteenth century and was drunk more as medicine than a beverage."

- (a) Who was Bodhidharma?
(b) Why did he cut off his eyelids?
(c) What grew out of the eyelids?
(d) Where was tea drunk first?

Ans. (a) Bodhidharma was an ancient Buddhist ascetic.

- (b) He cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditation.
(c) Ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids.
(d) Tea was drunk first in China.

3. "I have been reading as much as I could about tea," Rajvir said. "No one really knows who discovered tea but there are many legends."

"What legends?"

"Well, there's the one about the Chinese emperor who always boiled water before drinking it. One day a few leaves off the twigs burning under the pot fell into the water giving it a delicious flavour. It is said they were tea-leaves."

"Tell me another!" scoffed Pranjol. "We have an Indian legend too. Bodhidharma, an ancient Buddhist ascetic, cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditations. Ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids. The leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drunk banished sleep."

- (a) What kind of water did the Chinese emperor drink?
(b) What happened when a few leaves of the twigs fell into the water kept for boiling?
(c) What banished sleep?
(d) Find a word from the passage which means 'tasty'.

Ans. (a) He drank boiled water.

- (b) The water got a delicious flavour.
(c) The tea leaves when put in hot water and drunk, banished sleep.
(d) Delicious.

2. "Do you know that over eighty crore cups of tea are drunk every day throughout the world?" Rajvir said. "Whew!" exclaimed Pranjol. "Tea really is very popular."

The train pulled out of the station. Pranjol buried his nose in his detective book again. Rajvir too was an ardent fan of detective stories, but at the moment he was keener on looking at the beautiful scenery.

- How many cups of tea are drunk daily throughout the world?
- What type of book is Pranjol reading?
- '.....was an ardent fan.....' Who was an ardent fan and of what?
- Find out from the passage the word which means 'eager'.

- Ans.** (a) Over 80 crore cups of tea are drunk daily throughout the world.
 (b) Pranjol is reading a book of detective stories.
 (c) Rajvir was an ardent fan of detective stories.
 (d) Ardent.

3. Pranjol's father slowed down to allow a tractor, pulling a trailer-load of tea leaves, to pass. "This is the second-flush or sprouting period, isn't it, Mr. Barua?" Rajvir asked. "It lasts from May to July and yields the best tea." "You seem to have done your homework before coming," Pranjol's father said in a surprise. "Yes, Mr. Barua", Rajvir admitted. "But I hope to learn much more while I'm here."

- Who is Mr. Barua?
- For what did Pranjal's father appreciate Rajvir?
- 'I hope to learn.....'

The writer means :

- (1) Pranjol hopes (2) Rajvir hopes (3) Mr. Barua hopes (4) The vendor hopes
- Find out from the passage the word which means 'ends'.

- Ans.** (a) Mr. Barua is Pranjal's father.
 (b) Pranjol's father appreciated Rajvir for his knowledge about tea plantation.
 (c) Rajvir hopes.
 (d) Lasts.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. What made Rajvir amazed in the way?

Ans. Rajvir found the view outside the train splendid and eye catching with so much of greenery. It was his first visit to Assam and he was fascinated by the sprawling tea gardens, spreading like a green sea of neatly pruned bushes and found it more interesting to watch, than reading his book on detectives.

2. How does Rajvir describe the view from the train?

Ans. Rajvir describes the magnificent view of the landscape from the train window. It was a sea of tea bushes, fleeting against the backdrop of densely wooded hills. At odd intervals, there were tall shade-tree and one could see women tea-pluckers picking tea leaves, who appeared to be doll like figures.

3. How, according to Rajvir, was the view of the tea bushes magnificent?

Ans. According to Rajvir, the view of the tea bushes was magnificent. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills, a sea of tea bushes stretched as far as the eye could see. Amidst the orderly rows of bushes, busily moved doll-like figures.

4. What did Rajvir see at the Dhekiabari Tea Estate?

Ans. At the Dhekiabari Tea Estate, Rajvir saw acre upon acre of tea bushes. All had been neatly pruned to the same height. Groups of tea-pluckers were plucking the new fly sprouted leaves.



Tea Plucker

5. What do you know about Mr. Barua, Pranjol and Rajvir?

Ans. Mr. Barua is the father of Pranjol. He is the manager at the Dhekiabari Tea Estate, Assam. Pranjol is the son of Mr. Barua. He is Rajvir's classmate at school in Delhi. Rajvir is Pranjol's classmate. Pranjol has invited Rajvir to visit his home during summer break.

6. What did you learn about the tea pluckers from the lesson 'Tea from Assam'?

Ans. This lesson gives much information about tea pluckers. The tea pluckers work in groups. The baskets on their backs are made of bamboo. They wear plastic aprons. They pluck newly sprouted leaves of tea plants.

7. What are the different legends about the discovery of tea?

Ans. The first legend is of a Chinese emperor. He always boiled water before drinking it. By chance few leaves of the burning twigs fell into the water. They were tea leaves. The second legend is of Bodhidharma, an ancient Buddhist ascetic. He cut off his eyelids for feeling sleepy during meditations. Ten tea plants grew out of them. Their leaves banished sleep.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words.

1. Rajvir seemed to have a lot of information about tea. What all does he tell? What character trait about him is revealed?

Ans. Rajvir had been invited to spend his vacations with his classmate Pranjol whose father was the manager of a tea estate in Assam. He was quite excited about the trip and had gathered considerable amount of information about where tea originated and how it became such a popular beverage. He informs that about 80 crore cups of tea are consumed daily and that the name tea itself has originated from Chinese.

He narrates two popular legends about the origin of tea. Rajvir exhibits an important value trait, that is the pre-requisite to gain knowledge-curiosity and eagerness to know. Moreover, he is not a passive learner but is proactive in collecting prior information to any real experience. He likes to do his homework thoroughly before going to a place. This is something very appreciable and children should develop this habit of finding out about the place they are going to visit. These are extremely desirable traits for all learners.

2. What information did Rajvir share with Pranjol and his father ?

Ans. Rajvir had a lot of information about tea. He told Pranjol that though there are many legends about it, no one actually knows about the origin of it. One Chinese legend says that it was accidentally discovered by a Chinese Emperor. Another legend, which is Indian, says that it was discovered by Bodhidharma. The legend says that he cut off his eyelids as he felt sleepiness during meditation and tea plants grew out of them to banish sleep when they were drunk. He also knew that tea was first drunk in China in 2700 B.C. and it reached Europe in the sixteenth century as a medicine. He also informed Pranjol that the words 'tea', 'chai' and 'chini' are of Chinese origin. He even had knowledge about the sprouting season on the second-flush which is the best in the world.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

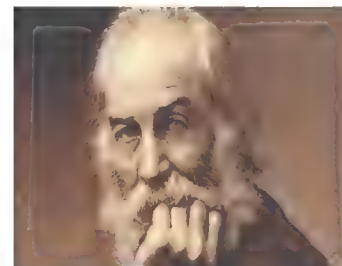
Answer the following questions.

1. What is the best season for tea production?
2. Why was Rajvir excited to see the tea plantations?
3. Write down the Buddhist legend about tea.
4. How long does the second flush or sprouting period last?
5. What details do you gather from this lesson?

ANIMALS

SUMMARY

The poem, "Animals" by Walt Whitman is a comparison between animals and humans. He finds that man lacks many virtues that animals have. He shows how animals are better than humans as they are more empathetic than humans. He says that animals also have feelings just like humans, however, their way of expression is better than humans. The poet desires to live among the animals because they are calm and self-contained. They are happy with the resources they have. They do not sweat and complain about their condition like human beings. According to him, humans have lost the true meaning of life in this fast paced life while animals still enjoy the true beauty of life and nature. Unlike humans, they do not criticise what they already have. He says that the humans have lost their sanity while chasing the material goods. They do not possess the mania of possessing things. The poet says that he feels more at home with animals than human beings since they are selfish, false and always dissatisfied, while the animals are unselfish, true and more satisfied. No animals have to bow to another of their kind. They all are equal and remain satisfied. The poet has a deep desire to learn from animals. They do not have any kind of falsehood. The poet is much surprised at their quality. He wants to learn from them those good qualities and virtues which he had dropped carelessly. He finds that man lacks many virtues that animals have. They show their love for us. He says that he would be happy if he was an animal than a human. He said that he enjoyed the company of animals as compared to that of humans. He wants to transform into an animal in order to understand what helps animals establish their lifestyle etc.



Walt Whitman

NCERT SOLVED QUESTIONS

Thinking About The Poem

1. Notice the use of the word 'turn' in the first line, "I think I could turn and live with animals." What is the poet turning from?
Ans. Literally the poet is turning from a human being to animal but connotatively he is turning from selfishness to sublimity. He is turning away from this world where people lack placidity and restraint.
2. Mention three things that humans do and animals don't.
Ans. First, humans sweat and whine about their condition. Second, they lie awake in the dark and weep for their sins. Third, they make the poet sick discussing their duty to God. Animals don't do these things.
3. Do humans kneel to other humans who lived thousands of years ago? Discuss this in groups.
Ans. Group A – Yes, humans kneel to other humans who lived thousands of years ago in Godly form or who fulfilled their expectations.
 Group B – No, they do not kneel to other humans unless they have some selfish ends.
4. What are the 'tokens' that the poet says he may have dropped long ago, and which the animals have kept for him? Discuss this in class. (Hint: Whitman belongs to the Romantic tradition that includes Rousseau and Wordsworth, which holds that civilisation has made humans false to their own true nature. What could be the basic aspects of our nature as living beings that humans choose to ignore or deny?)
Ans. Love, placidity, dispossession, happiness, acceptance, satisfaction etc. are the 'tokens' that the poet says he may have dropped long ago, and which the animals have kept for him. Animals are far from vices. Civilization has made humans false to their own true nature. They do so for possessions. Love, peace, compassion, non-involvement in worldly possessions, and philanthropy could be the basic aspects of our nature as living being that humans choose to ignore or deny.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS
EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions.

1. I think I could turn and live with animals, they are
so placid and self-contained,
I stand and look at them long and long.

- (a) What is the poet's wish?
- (b) How do the animals appear to the poet?
- (c) What does he do thereafter?
- (d) Who does 'I' refer to in the first line?

- Ans.** (a) The poet wishes that he could live with animals.
(b) The animals appear to be calm, peaceful and self-confident.
(c) He stands and looks at them for long.
(d) 'I' refers to the poet.

2. They do not sweat and whine about their condition,
They do not lie awake in the dark and weep for their sins,
They do not make me sick discussing their duty to God,
- (a) Why do humans lie awake in the dark?
 - (b) What do humans do about their condition?
 - (c) Find a word opposite to "good deeds" in the extract above.
 - (d) Find a word from the passage that is an antonym of 'Thanking'.

- Ans.** (a) Humans lie awake in the dark weeping for their sins.
(b) They sweat and whine about their condition.
(c) Sins.
(d) Whine.

3. Not one is dissatisfied, not one is demented with
the mania of owning things,
Not one kneels to another, nor to his kind that
lived thousands of years ago,
Not one is respectable or unhappy over the whole earth.
- (a) What mania do human beings suffer from?
 - (b) What is the attitude of human beings about those who lived thousands of years ago?
 - (c) Who is unhappy over the whole earth?
 - (d) Who is the poet talking about?

- Ans.** (a) Human beings suffer from the mania of owning things.
(b) They kneel to the images of those who lived thousands of years ago.
(c) Human beings are unhappy over the whole earth.
(d) The poet is talking about animals.

4. So they show their relations to me and I accept them,
They bring me tokens of myself, they evince
them plainly in their possession
I wonder where they get those tokens,
Did I pass that way huge times ago and negligently drop them?
(a) What are these 'tokens of myself'?
(b) What is the main point about animals here?
(c) What does the poet wonder about?
(d) What does the poet accept?

- Ans.** (a) These 'tokens of myself' are the love and affection of the animals towards the poet.
(b) The main point here is the difference between humans and animals.
(c) The poet wonders how the animals got those tokens of love and affection.
(d) The poet accepts that the animals are related to him.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. Why does the poet show a preference for living with the animals?

- Ans.** The poet says that it is better to live with animals as they show tokens of goodness. They are peaceful, self-contained and happy. Animals show innate goodness which is lacked in human beings. Animals do not grumble about their lives, cry over their sins.

2. What is the relevance of 'tokens' in the poem 'Animals'? Who brings them to the poet?

- Ans.** Animals show tokens of goodness. They are self-contained, peaceful, thankful and happy creatures. Animals are not unhappy and indeed, bring out tokens of man's good nature lost long ago. Animals do not grumble about their lives.

3. Explain the satisfaction that animals have and humans don't.

- Ans.** Animals do not have the desire to possess worldly things. Whereas, the more humans own, the more their desire to own grows, leaving them dissatisfied forever. The absence of this greed in animals keeps them satisfied and its presence keeps humans dissatisfied.

4. Write the central idea of the poem 'Animals'.

- Ans.** The central idea of the poem is the difference between human beings and animals. While they both were initially similar in their innate goodness, the man had lost it over the years, while animals remain the same. They show these tokens of goodness - peaceful, self-contained and happy, and compel the poet to contemplate on man's lost goodness.

5. Why do animals not weep for their sins?

- Ans.** Animals do not weep for their sins because they do not need to do so. They are innocent creatures that commit no sins. It is humans, who weep yet commit sins.

6. What makes the poet sick?

- Ans.** The fact, that humans commit all kinds of sins and still discuss their duty to God, makes the poet sick. This shows the hypocrisy of humans, who on one hand do wrong and on the other pray to God.

7. What do animals show to the poet?

- Ans.** The animals show the poet their non-discriminatory relations. They come to the poet with feeling of fraternity. They evince their possessions without any adulteration. They do not have showy attitude.

8. What does the poet mean by, "Not one is respectable or unhappy over the whole earth"?

Ans. The poet means that animals do not pray to God or to ancestors and all of them are equal, hence no one is more respectable than the other. The good values of animals and the lack of social conventions make them happy.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words.

1. What according to you should be the virtues that humans should possess?

Ans. Human beings should be gentle not only to their own kind but also to everyone and everything. Virtues such as kindness bring along other important values like innocence and honesty that together make the world a better place to live. The lack of such values results in a corrupt society where people commit sins and weep over them in dark. This situation makes them dissatisfied and unhappy in life. Human beings probably had these virtues in them but along with civilisation processes, they have left them behind and adopted greed and cunningness.

2. "It is not complaining but accepting a situation, the key to happiness in life." Elaborate in context of the poem 'Animals'.

Ans. The poet, Walt Whitman in his poem 'Animals', compares animals to human beings and differentiates between them on the basis of their characteristics. Animals have been ranked much higher than humans in poet's perception. Since animals do not complain about their situation, they are considered to be much happier than humans. Animals live in natural surroundings, they accept their natural lives. Humans, on the other hand, have never accepted nature, i.e., they complain about it and try to change it, leading to an unhappy life.

3. How is the poem, 'Animals', a contrast between humans and animals?

Ans. Humans can be described as selfish, jealous, restless, unhappy, cribbing, and grumbling creatures. In contrast, animals are peaceful, self-contained, thankful and happy creatures. They do not grumble about their lives, lie awake at night, cry over their sins or discuss their duty towards God as humans do. Also, they don't have a mania for "owning things"; nor do they kneel before others. Animals, on the whole, are not unhappy and indeed bring out tokens of man's good nature lost long ago, when he possessed qualities like love, respect, contentment and happiness.

4. "The more I know of humans the more I love my pet." With reference to the poem, 'Animals', elaborate the statement.

Ans. Whenever the poet thinks about animals, he has a feeling of being one among them. The lost human qualities of being respectable, happy, contented, and peace-loving could be still found reflected in animals. They don't whine about their condition; nor do they cry for their sins. They don't make others sick by discussing their duty to God, are not dissatisfied nor have the craze to own things. They may not be respectable, but they definitely do not kneel before others or be unhappy as a whole. For the poet, they bring the tokens of human qualities like love, respect, contentment and happiness, which they themselves exhibit plainly. He thinks that perhaps the animals possessed these qualities naturally. The poet also wonders whether these tokens could have been dropped by humans long ago. Whatever the case may be, while thinking about the overwhelming negativity of human beings, anyone may start loving his pet all the more.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

Answer the following questions.

1. What is the message of the poem 'Animals'?

2. How are animals better than humans, according to the poet?

3. What shows that the poet loves animals?

4. What is the attitude of human about those who lived thousands of years ago?

5. What is the attitude of the animals towards their condition?

MIJBIL THE OTTER

SUMMARY

In this story, the author Gavin Maxwell tells us about his pet. Gavin Maxwell lives in a cottage in Camusfearna, in the West Highlands in Scotland. When his dog Jonnie died, Maxwell was too sad to think of keeping a dog again. In the beginning of 1956, the author was in Iraq. One day on the way to Basra, he casually mentioned to a friend that he would love to have an otter instead of a dog as a pet. A few days later, the author got an otter from his friend. Two Arabs brought it for him in a sack.



GAVIN MAXWELL

The author stayed in Basra for a few days. Very soon the otter became very friendly with the author. It loved to play with water all the time. It played with a rubber ball also. The author named his otter, Mijbil. He made for it a body-belt. He would take it on a lead to the bathroom. There the otter would go mad playing with water. It could even turn the tap and make the water flow at full pressure.

After some days, the author was to come back to London. The transporting of Mijbil became a problem. British airline did not permit animals on its flights. Another airline agreed to take the animal if packed in a box.

The author made a small box for the otter. He had to face a lot of difficulty and it made him late for the plane. While in the plane, the otter escaped from the box. There was a lot of hue and cry. At last, the otter came back and settled on the author's knees. After an eventful journey, the author and his otter at last reached London where he lived in a flat.

The otter spent most of its time playing with its toys. Sometimes the author took it out for a walk. He would take it on a lead as if it were a dog. Opposite to the author's flat, there was a primary school that had a low outer wall about thirty yards long. The otter would jump on to it and go running all the length of the wall.

Different people made different guesses as to what animal it was. They would say it was a baby seal, squirrel, a walrus, a hippo, a beaver, a bear cub or even a leopard with spots.

Very few Londoners had ever seen an otter. They were filled with surprise on seeing such a strange animal. They used to make blind guesses to recognize the animal. The most surprising event was when the labourer was digging his hole in the street. On seeing the animal, he placed down his tools and when the narrator neared him, he shouted. "What is that supposed to be?"



NCERT SOLVED QUESTIONS

Oral Comprehension Check

1. What 'experiment' did Maxwell think Camusfearna would be suitable for?
- Ans.** When Maxwell travelled to Southern Iraq, a thought came into his mind that he should keep an otter instead of a dog. And that Camusfearna, ringed by water, would be a suitable spot for this experiment.
2. Why does he go to Basra? How long does he wait there, and why?
- Ans.** He went to Basra's Consulate-General to collect and answer the mail from Europe. He waited there over a week. When he found that his mail hadn't arrived, he cabled to England. It remained unresponsive for three days. He received his mail after five days.

3. How does he get the otter? Does he like it? Pick out the words that tell you this.

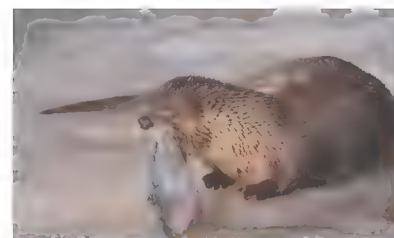
Ans. On the day, he received his mail, he went to his bedroom to read it. There he found two Arabs with the otter in the sack. They handed him over a note from his friend and the otter. Yes, he liked it. The words 'a thralldom to otters, an otter' tell us this.

4. Why was the otter named 'Maxwell's otter'?

Ans. The otter was named 'Maxwell's otter' because it was of a race previously unknown to science, and was at length christened by zoologists 'Lutrogale perspicillata maxwelli or Maxwell's otter'.

5. Tick the right answer. In the beginning, the otter was

- aloof and indifferent
- friendly
- hostile



Ans. In the beginning, the otter was aloof and indifferent.

6. What happened when Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom? How did it behave two days after that?

Ans. When Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom, he went wild with joy in the water for half an hour. He plunged and rolled in it. He made enough slosh and splash for a hippo. Two days later, he escaped from his bedroom and through the corridor reached the bathroom. He fumbled at the chromium taps with his paws. He turned on the tap from trickle to full flow.

7. How was Mij to be transported to England?

Ans. Mij was to be transported to England by a flight to Paris, and from there to London because British Airlines didn't permit animals to fly. Another airline insisted to pack Mij into a square box not bigger than eighteen inches. And it was to be kept on the floor at the feet.

8. What did Mij do to the box?

Ans. The author put Mij into the box and left for a hurried meal. In his attempt to come out the box, Mij tore the lining of the box to shreds. He got badly wounded during his attempt and was bleeding.

9. Why did Maxwell put the otter back in the box? How do you think he felt when he did this?

Ans. Maxwell put the otter back in the box because he was getting late for the flight. It was just ten minutes until the time of the flight and the airport was five miles distant. He felt bad when he put the otter back in the box as Mij was in a miserable condition at that time.

10. Why does Maxwell say the airhostess was 'the very queen of her kind'?

Ans. Maxwell said the airhostess was 'the very queen of her kind' because she heard Maxwell's events of the last half-hour and believed in them. Then, she suggested to have his pet on his knees.

11. What happened when the box was opened?

Ans. When the box was opened, Mij was out of it in a flash and he disappeared at high speed down the aircraft. He caused squawks and shrieks in the aircraft. A woman stood up on her seat screaming out.

12. What game had Mij invented?

Ans. Mij had invented the game of rolling the ping-pong ball. He would keep the ball on the raised end of the damaged suitcase and allow it to run down to the length of it. He would then dash around to the other end to ambush its arrival.

13. What are 'compulsive habits'? What does Maxwell say are the compulsive habits of?

- (i) school children
- (ii) Mij?

Ans. Habits impossible to control are compulsive habits. The following are the compulsive habits of school children and Mij.

- (i) School children must place their foot squarely on the center of each paving block; must touch every seventh upright of the iron railings, or pass to the outside of every second lamp post.
- (ii) On his way home, Mij would tug the author to that primary school wall, jump on to it and gallop the full length of its 30 yards to the hopeless distraction both of pupils and of staff within.

14. What group of animals do otters belong to?

Ans. According to the author, otters comparatively belong to a small group of animal called Mustellines shared by the badger, mongoose, weasel, stoat, mink and others.

15. What guesses did the Londoners make about what Mij was?

Ans. Londoners guessed that Mij was a baby seal, a squirrel, a walrus, a hippo a beaver, a bear cub, a leopard that had changed its spots and a brontosaur. But nobody guessed Mij as an otter.

Thinking About The Text

1. What things does Mij do which tell you that he is an intelligent, friendly and fun-loving animal who needs love?

Ans. Mij was an intelligent animal. It invented its own game out of the ping-pong balls. It screwed the tap till water began to flow and then it would play and splash in the water. Though it was aloof and indifferent in the beginning, it soon became very friendly. It formed a special attachment with Maxwell. It responded when Maxwell called out his name. It grew desperate when Maxwell left it in a box and it got hurt while trying to come out of it. After Maxwell took it out, it clung to his feet. It was a fun-loving animal. It enjoyed playing all kinds of games. It would play with a selection of toys, ping-pong balls, marbles, rubber fruit, and a terrapin shell. It required love and affection from Maxwell and it got that readily.

2. What are some of the things we come to know about otters from this text?

Ans. Answer Otters belong to a comparatively small group of animals called Mustellines, shared by the badger, mongoose, weasel, stoat, mink and others. Maxwell's otter was of a race previously unknown to science and was at length named by zoologists *Lutrogale perspicillata maxwelli* or Maxwell's otter. Otters are small creatures with dark brown fur all over the body. They are found in large numbers in marshes. Otters live near water and enjoy playing in water. Otters are very active animals and can be easily tamed. They are often tamed by the Arabs. It is characteristic of otters that every drop of water must be extended and spread about the place; a bowl must at once be overturned, or, if it would not be overturned, be sat in and splashed in until it overflowed. For them, water must be kept on the move. Otters love playing various games, especially with a ball.

3. Why is Mij's species now known to the world as Maxwell's otter?

Ans. Maxwell's otter was of a race previously unknown to science and was at length named by zoologists *Lutrogale perspicillata maxwelli* or Maxwell's otter.

4. Maxwell in the story speaks for the otter, Mij. He tells us what the otter feels and thinks on different occasions. Given below are some things the otter does. Complete the column on the right to say what Maxwell says about what Mij feels and thinks.

Ans.	What Mijbil does	How Mijbil feels or thinks
	plunges, rolls in the water and makes the water splosh and splash	Mij feels that every drop of water should be enjoyed. It feels that static water is a waste and water should always remain dynamic.
	Screws the tap in the wrong way	Mij feels irritated when the tap does not cooperate.
	Nuzzles Maxwell's face and neck in the aeroplane.	If feel happy secure comfortable in the owner.

5. Read the story and find the sentences where Maxwell describes his pet otter. Then choose and arrange your sentences to illustrate those statements below that you think are true.

Maxwell's description:

(i) makes Mij seem almost human, like a small boy.

- Ans. He spent hours shuffling a rubber ball round the room like a four-footed soccer player using all four feet to dribble the ball, and he could also throw it, with a powerful flick of the neck, to a surprising height and distance.

(ii) shows that he is often irritated with what Mij does.

- Ans. Incorrect

(iii) shows that he is often surprised by what Mij does.

- Ans. I watched, amazed; in less than a minute he had turned the tap far enough to produce a trickle of water, and after a moment or two achieved the full flow.

(iv) of Mij's antics is comical.

- Ans. But the real play of an otter is when he lies on his back and juggles with small objects between his paws. (v) shows that he observes the antics of Mij very carefully.

- Ans. A suitcase that I had taken to Iraq had become damaged on the journey home, so that the lid, when closed, remained at a slope from one end to the other. Mij discovered that if he placed the ball on the high end it would run down the length of the suitcase. He would dash around to the other end to ambush its arrival, hide from it, crouching, to spring up and take it by surprise, grab it and trot off with it to the high end once more.

(vi) shows that he thinks Mij is a very ordinary otter.

- Ans. Incorrect

PRACTICE QUESTIONS EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions.

1. The second-night Mijbil came on to my bed in the small hours and remained asleep in the crook of my knees until the servant brought tea in the morning, and during the day he began to lose his apathy and take a keen, much too keen, interest in his surroundings. I made a body-belt for him and took him on a lead to the bathroom, where for half an hour he went wild with joy in the water, plunging and rolling in it, shooting up and down the length of the bathtub underwater, and making enough slosh and splash for a hippo. This, I was to learn, is a characteristic of otters; every drop of water must be, so to speak, extended and spread about the place; a bowl must at once be overturned, or, if it will not be overturned, be sat in and splashed in until it overflows. Water must be kept on the move and made to do things; when static it is wasted and provoking.

- (a) Where did the otter sleep on the second night?
- (b) What happened when the author took the otter to the bathroom?
- (c) What did the author make for Mijbil?
- (d) Find a word from the passage which means 'absence of interest'.

Ans. (a) On the second night, the otter slept on the author's bed between his knees.

- (b) The otter became very happy when he was put into a bathtub. He spread and splashed water all over the place.
- (c) The author made a body belt for the otter.
- (d) Apathy.

- 2.** Very soon Mij would follow me without a lead and come to me when I called his name. He spent most of his time in play. He spent hours shuffling a rubber ball around the room like a four-footed soccer player using all four feet to dribble the ball, and he could also throw it, with a powerful flick of the neck, to a surprising height and distance. But the real play of an otter is when he lies on his back and juggles with small objects between his paws. Marbles were Mij's favourite toys for this pastime; he would lie on his back rolling two or more of them up and down his wide, flat belly without ever dropping one to the floor.

- (a) What did the otter do to a rubber ball?
- (b) How did he throw the ball?
- (c) What is the real play of an otter?
- (d) Find a word from the passage which means 'football'.



Ans. (a) The otter shuffled it around the room like a four-footed soccer player.

- (b) He threw the ball with a powerful push of the neck.
- (c) It is to lie on its back and juggle with small objects between its paws.
- (d) Soccer.

- 3.** The days passed peacefully at Basra, but I dreaded the prospect of transporting Mij to England, and to Camusfearna. The British airline to London would not fly animals, so I booked a flight to Paris on another airline, and from there to London. The airline insisted that Mij should be packed into a box not more than eighteen inches square, to be carried on the floor at my feet. I had a box made, and an hour before we started, I put Mij into the box so that he would become accustomed to it, and left for a hurried meal.

- (a) What did the author dread?
- (b) Why did the author book a flight to Paris instead of going directly to London?
- (c) What did the airline suggest?
- (d) When did the author put Mij into the box?
- (e) Find a word from the passage which means 'feared'.

Ans. (a) The author dreaded the prospect of taking the otter to London and to his home.

- (b) He did not book a flight to London as the British Airlines would not fly an animal.
- (c) The airline suggested that he should put the otter into a box.
- (d) The author put the otter into the box an hour before the time of the flight.
- (e) Dreaded.

4. I sat in the back of the car with the box beside me as the driver tore through the streets of Basra like a ricocheting bullet. The aircraft was waiting to take off; I was rushed through to it by infuriated officials. Luckily, the seat booked for me was at the extreme front. I covered the floor around my feet with newspapers, rang for the air hostess, and gave her a parcel of fish (for Mij) to keep in a cool place. I took her into my confidence about the events of the last half hour. I have retained the most profound admiration for that Mr hostess; she was the very queen of her kind. She suggested that I might prefer to have my pet on my knee, and I could have kissed her hand in the depth of my gratitude. But, not knowing otters, I was quite unprepared for what followed.

- What was beside the author in the car?
- Where did the author sit in the aircraft?
- What did the author give the air hostess?
- What did the air hostess suggest?
- Find a word from the passage which means 'deep'.

Ans. (a) There was a box beside the author in the car.

(b) The author sat at the extreme front in the aircraft.

(c) The author gave the air hostess a parcel which contained fish for the otter.

(d) She suggested that he should have his pet on his knees.

(e) Profound.

5. With the opening of that sack began a phase of my life that has not yet ended, and may, for all I know, not end before I do. It is, in effect, a thralldom to otters, an otter fixation, that I have since found to be shared by most other people, who have ever owned one.

- Which creature emerged from the sack?
- With what was the otter coated?
- What was 'the new phase' of the author's life?
- Why was the otter named 'Maxwell's otter'?

Ans. (a) An otter.

(b) Symmetrical pointed scales of mud armour.

(c) It was a thralldom to otters. It was a strong attachment and feelings for the otter.

(d) The otter was of a race previously unknown to science and was at length christened by zoologists as Maxwell's otter.

6. I cabled to England, and when, three days later, nothing had happened, I tried to telephone. The call had to be booked twenty-four hours in advance. On the first day, the line was out of order. On the second day, the exchange was closed for a religious holiday. On the third day, there was another breakdown. My friend left, and I arranged to meet him in a week's time. Five days later, my mail arrived. I carried it to my bedroom to read, and there, squatting on the floor, were two Arabs; besides them lay a sack that squirmed from time to time. They handed me a note from my friend; "Here is your otter".

- What was the main problem in getting the mail?
- What did the writer get in the package?
- What did he see when he entered his room?
- Why did the sack squirm from time-to-time?

Ans. (a) On the first day the line was out of order, then exchange was closed for a religious holiday and then another breakdown.

(b) A pet - an otter.

(c) He saw two Arabs with an otter in a sack.

(d) This was because there was an otter in it.



7. Mijbil, as I called the otter, was, in fact, of a race previously unknown to science, was at length christened by zoologists *Lutrogale perspicillata maxwelli*, or Maxwell's otter. For the first twenty-four hours Mijbil was neither hostile nor friendly; he was simply aloof and indifferent, choosing to sleep on the floor as far from my bed as possible. The second night Mijbil came on to my bed in the small hours and remained asleep in the crook of knees until the servant brought tea in the morning and during the day he began to lose his apathy and take a keen, much too keen, interest in his surroundings.
- (a) 'Maxwell's otter', why was the otter given this name?
 (b) What was his behaviour during the first twenty-four hours?
 (c) What shows that the otter tried to be friendly on the second night?
 (d) When did Mijbil come to the writer's bed?

- Ans.** (a) The zoologists had christened it as *Lutrogale perspicillata maxwelli*, or Maxwell's otter after the author as it was of a race previously unknown to science.
 (b) Neither friendly nor hostile.
 (c) He came to the writer's bed and slept in the groove of his knees.
 (d) Mijbil came to the writer's bed in the early hours of the morning.

8. The creature that emerged from this sack on the spacious tiled floor of the bedroom resembled most of all a very small, medieval conceived, dragon. From the head to the tip of the tail he was coated with symmetrical pointed scales of mud armour, between whose tips was visible a soft velvet fur like that of a chocolate-brown mole.
- (a) Which creature is being talked about here?
 (b) What did it resemble?
 (c) Why was he covered with mud?
 (d) What does 'mud armour' imply here?

- Ans.** (a) Otter.
 (b) It looked like a small medieval-conceived dragon.
 (c) This was because nobody gave him a bath.
 (d) This implies fur that formed pointed scales as the mud had dried over them.

9. When I returned, there was an appalling spectacle. There was complete silence from the box, but from its air holes and chinks around the lid, blood had trickled and dried. I whipped off the lock and tore open the lid, and Mij exhausted and blood-spattered, whimpered and caught at my leg. He had torn the lining of the box to shreds when I removed the last of it so that there were no cutting edges left, it was just ten minutes until the time of the flight, and the airport was five miles distant. I put the miserable Mij back into the box, holding down the lid with my hand.
- (a) Why did the writer call it an appalling spectacle?
 (b) Why was the writer nervous?
 (c) What were the observations of the writer when he returned?
 (d) Why did the writer put Mij back into the box?

- Ans.** (a) It was an appalling spectacle as he saw that blood had trickled and dried all over the box.
 (b) The writer became nervous since there were only ten minutes left to take the flight and the airport was 5 miles away.
 (c) There was complete silence in the box, blood had trickled around the lid and air holes and dried.
 (d) There was no cutting edge left, just ten minutes for flight. The airline had specified that the animal should be kept in a box.

10. When I casually mentioned this to a friend, he as casually replied that I had better get one in the Tigris marshes, for there they were as common as mosquitoes, and were often tamed by the Arabs. We were going to Basra to the Consulate-General to collect and answer our mail from Europe. At the Consulate-General we found that my friend's mail had arrived but that mine had not.

- (a) What was 'they'?
- (b) Where were they going to get the otter?
- (c) Find the exact word from the extract which means 'domesticated'.
- (d) What did the author find at the Consulate-General?

Ans. (a) 'They' refers to the otter.

(b) They were going to get the otter from Tigris marshes.

(c) Tamed.

(d) At the Consulate-General, the author found that his mail had not arrived while his friend's mail had arrived.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. How was Mij to be transported to England?

Ans. The British Airlines to England would not fly animals. So, Maxwell booked a flight to Paris on another airline and from there to London. The airline insisted that Mij should be packed into a box not more than eighteen inches square. Thus, Mij was transported to England in that box, which was kept on the floor at his feet.

2. What did the otter look like?

Ans. The otter looked like a small dragon belonging to the middle ages. It was covered with symmetrical pointed scales of mud. One could see between the scales a soft velvet fur like that of a chocolate-brown mole.

3. How did Mij spend his time?

Ans. Mij spent most of his time in play. He spent hours shuffling the rubber ball round the room like a four-footed soccer player. His real play was when he used to juggle small objects between his paws. He loved playing with water. Marbles were his favourite toy for his pastime. He would lie on his back rolling up and down his belly without ever dropping one to the floor.

4. While staying in London, what was the pastime of Mij?

Ans. While staying in London, Mijbil would play for hours with his own selection of toys. His favourite toys were ping-pong balls, marbles, rubber fruit and a terrapin shell that the narrator had bought from his native marshes.

5. How did Mij behave outside the house in London?

Ans. Mij used to follow the narrator while walking on the streets. He developed certain habits during those walks. He went with him like children playing, running and touching things in the street. He would take the author near the wall of a primary school and then gallop on it.

6. What is the most common characteristic of an otter?

Ans. Otters belong to a small group of animals called Mussel lines. They are water-loving animals and are generally found in marshy areas. They are intelligent, fun-loving and playful and are harmless beautiful creatures.

7. What would Mij do on the low wall adjoining the school opposite to Maxwell's flat in London?

Ans. Along frontage of the school ran a low wall about two feet high. Mij would tug Maxwell to this wall. Then Mij would jump on to it, and run with leaps the full length of its thirty yards.

8. What, according to the writer, is the 'real play' of the otter?

Ans. The real play of an otter is lying on his back and juggling with small objects between his paws. Marbles were Mijbil's favourite toys for this pastime. He would roll two or more of them up and down on his wide, fat belly. He never dropped one to the floor.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words.

1. In the name of rules and regulations, basic values are ignored but people like the airhostess in 'Mijbil the Otter' are a ray of hope. What virtues do we find in the airhostess?

Ans. The airhostess was somewhat friendly, and she allowed the narrator to place the otter on his lap. She could relate and empathise with the situation faced by the narrator. This shows that apart from being professional, she was a caring lady. She not only wanted to do her job but was also responsible as she helped the narrator in finding the otter back.

She did all that she could do for Maxwell and the otter. She was hard working and was ready to help as she did not say 'no' to help the narrator.

2. Mijbil did things which demonstrated its personality. Which qualities of the narrator are shown in his care for Mijbil?

Ans. Mijbil was an intelligent, fun-loving and playful otter. It was fond of water. When Maxwell took it to the bathroom, for half an hour, it went wild with joy in the water, plunging and rolling in it. He took care of him very well. He gave him lots of toys including marbles, rubber balls, rubber fruits and a terrapin shell to play with. He also noticed Mijbil's habits and traits. Maxwell encouraged Mijbil to do whatever he liked to do. He took him out for exercise every day. When Maxwell saw him in blood, it was horrified. He took him out of the box; he jumped all over and then sat on Maxwell's lap quietly.

3. When did the author decide to have an otter as a pet? How did he get an otter?

Ans. The author had a pet dog, Jonnie. When Jonnie died, his life without a pet was lonely. In 1956, he went to Southern Iraq. He had decided by then that he would keep an otter as a pet instead of a dog. His home in Scotland had much water around it. So it would be suitable for an otter. The author shared this idea with a friend. He supported the idea and suggested that he should take an otter from the Tigris marshes. He said that otters were in plenty at that place. One day, the author found two Arabs in his room. They had brought a sack with them. In the sack, there was an otter. They said that it was for him.

4. How did the otter look when the author got it? What name did he get it? How did the otter enjoy being in the bathroom?

Ans. The otter was a small creature like a small dragon. It was covered with mud from head to tail. Under the mud, it had soft velvet skin. The author named the otter 'Mijbil'. His race was unknown to scientists. On the first night, it slept on the floor. The next slipped on the author's bed and slept between his knees. Mijbil started taking interest in its surroundings. When Mijbil was taken to the bathroom he enjoyed his bath. He went wild with joy in the water of the tub. The author knew that the otters are fond of water. Two days later, Mijbil escaped from the bedroom. It went to the bathroom. He sat into the bathtub and turned the tap on. He was happy under the running water.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

Answer the following questions.

1. Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow:
 - A. I was rushed through to it by infuriated officials. Luckily, the seat booked for me was at the extreme front. I covered the floor around my feet with newspapers, rang for the air hostess, and gave her a parcel of fish (for Mij) to keep in a cool place. I took her into my confidence about the events of the last half hour.
 - (a) Why were the airport officials infuriated?
 - (b) How did the narrator take the airhostess in his confidence?
 - (c) Find the exact word from the extract which means 'extremely angry and impatient'.
 - (d) Why did the author give fish to the air-hostess?
 - B. Very soon Mij would follow me without a lead and come to me when I called his name. He spent most of his time in play. He spent hours shuffling a rubber ball round the room like a four-footed soccer player using all four feet to dribble the ball, and he could also throw it, with a powerful flick of the neck, to a surprising height and distance.
 - (a) What was the favourite timepass of Mijbil?
 - (b) What did the otter do when the narrator called his name?
 - (c) Find the exact word from the extract which means 'strike'.
 - (d) What has been referred as a four-footed soccer player?
 2. Why was the narrator not able to communicate when there was a delay in the arrival of the mail?
 3. Why did Maxwell keep an otter as a pet?
 4. What happened when Maxwell would call the otter by his name?
 5. Why do you think the otter was not friendly at first with the narrator? Can you relate this to the human nature as well?
 6. Describe the author's experience with the otter in the aircraft.
-

THE TREES

SUMMARY

'The Trees' written by Adrienne Rich, is a poem about decorative plants. It shows conflict between man and nature. These plants are grown in houses in small pots and pans. They are not useful for birds and insects. Birds can't sit on the branches. Insects can't hide in them. They don't give any shade. Their twigs are stiff. Their boughs are like a newly discharged patient heading for the clinic door suggesting that the trees were sick or unhappy, in need of medical help and healing, but now they're healed and free to go and live their lives. They are devoid of light. Their leaves rush towards the glass window for light because they feel suffocated in their small pots and pans. The poetess is sitting inside her room. She is writing long letters. The poet wants to give the message that the presence of a few trees inside our homes does not become equal to nature. It is night time. She feels the smell of leaves and lichen reaching inside her room. The poetess longs that these trees should strive to get light and air. Real nature is outside, in the forests that we have destroyed.



Adrienne Rich

This poem narrates the struggle of a population of trees to escape the confines of a green house or container of nature. The poet tells us that how trees want to break out of the bondage of man-made things and reunite with their natural surroundings. The poem tells us how the trees want to break free from the walls that humans have put around them and go out in the forest. The message is that the forests have disappeared. So people have planted trees in their homes. Trees are revolting as they have lost their natural usefulness. No bird's nest in them, nor do they spread their shadows to tired people. 'The tree' is a symbolic poem. Adrienne Rich has used trees as a metaphor. It can be said that the women have remained indoors but now they are ready to move outdoors to renew the forest of mankind.

STANZAWISE EXPLANATION

Stanza 1 :

The trees inside are moving out into the forest,
the forest that was empty all these days
where no bird could sit
no insect hide
no sun bury its feet in shadow
the forest that was empty all these nights
will be full of trees by morning.

The speaker of the poem observes that the trees in her house are moving outside into the forest which has been empty for a long time. It is important to understand that the trees are not actually moving, but it has been used as an imagery by the poet to show the destroyed forests and the false nature that humans have tried to keep in their houses. Since the forest outside was empty, no birds could sit on the branches of trees, no insects could hide in the trees and sunlight could never disappear under the shadows of the trees. The speaker feels that the empty forest will be full of trees by the next morning.

Stanza 2 :

All night the roots work
to disengage themselves from the cracks
in the veranda floor.
The leaves strain toward the glass
small twigs stiff with exertion
long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof
like newly discharged patients
half-dazed, moving
to the clinic doors.

It seems like the trees work silently in the night in order to complete their mission of getting free from the boundaries of the house. Therefore, they work all night to free themselves through the cracks on the veranda floor. The leaves of the trees try very hard to put a lot of pressure on the glass so that they could break it. The small twigs have become very hard due to applying so much pressure to free themselves. The larger branches of the trees have shrunk because of being inside the walls and under the roof, where they cannot grow much. They try to move slowly from there and look like newly discharged patients from a hospital, who become half-shocked on coming to the outside world.

Stanza 3 :

I sit inside, doors open to the veranda
 writing long letters
 in which I scarcely mention the departure
 of the forest from the house.
 The night is fresh, the whole moon shines
 in a sky still open
 the smell of leaves and lichen
 still reaches like a voice into the rooms.
 My head is full of whispers
 which tomorrow will be silent.

The speaker, who could be the poet herself sits in her house, writing long letters, the doors of which open to the veranda. She hardly mentions in her letters about the trees that are moving out to the empty forest. It is a full moon night where the moon is shining in the open sky and the night is very fresh. The poet can smell the leaves and lichens coming from the trees that reach her like a voice.

Stanza 4 :

Listen. The glass is breaking.
 The trees are stumbling forward
 into the night. Winds rush to meet them.
 The moon is broken like a mirror,
 its pieces flash now in the crown
 of the tallest oak.

The speaker listens to the sounds coming from the leaves and lichens of the trees. These sounds are there in the morning as the trees will move out to the forest in the night and will not be in the house by morning. Now, the speaker can hear the glass breaking due to the efforts of the twigs. As the glass breaks, the trees hurry outside and in doing so, they fall on each other and get struck at different places. As the trees go in the open, it seems like the wind is moving fast towards them to meet them. The tall trees can finally stand straight as they are free. They are so tall that it seems they have broken the moon into pieces like a broken mirror. The moon now sits like the crown on the heads of the tall oak trees. Here also, the use of moon is an imagery to show that between the ground and the sky stands the trees; and one can only look at parts of the moon, and not the full moon, from under the trees.

NCERT SOLVED QUESTIONS**Thinking About The Poem**

1. (i) Find, in the first stanza, three things that cannot happen in a treeless forest.
- (ii) What picture do these words create in your mind: "...sun bury its feet in shadow..."? What could the poet mean by the sun's 'feet'?

Ans. (i) Three things that cannot happen in a 'treeless forest' are:

- (a) Birds sitting on the branches of the trees.
 - (b) Insects hiding between the leaves and branches of the trees.
 - (c) The sun burying its feet in the shadows of the trees in the forest.
- (ii) The words "...sun bury its feet in shadow..." create a visual imagery of sunrays reaching down to the earth and creating patterns of shadows. The sun's 'feet' refers to the rays of sun that reach the earth and the forest.

2. (i) Where are the trees in the poem? What do their roots, their leaves, and their twigs do?
(ii) What does the poet compare their branches to?

Ans. (i) In the poem, the trees are in the poet's house. Their roots work all night to disengage themselves from the cracks in the veranda floor. The leaves make efforts to move towards the glass, while the small twigs get stiff with exertion.

- (ii) The poet compares the long cramped boughs or branches that shuffle under the roof to patients that have been newly discharged from hospital. The patients are half dazed after having recovered from an illness and move slowly towards the clinic doors longing to be out of the hospital. In a similar way, the branches of the trees are cramped under the closed roof and are longing to get out into the open their natural habitat and spread themselves in the fresh air.



3. (i) How does the poet describe the moon:
(a) at the beginning of the third stanza, and
(b) at its end? What causes this change?
(ii) What happens to the house when the trees move out of it?
(iii) Why do you think the poet does not mention "the departure of the forest from the house" in her letters? (Could it be that we are often silent about important happenings that are so unexpected that they embarrass us? Think about this again when you answer the next set of questions.)

Ans. (i) (a) At the beginning of the third stanza, the poet says that the night is fresh and the whole moon is shining in the open sky.
(b) At the end, the poet compares the moon shining through the crown of the tallest oak to a mirror that is broken into many pieces such as a shattered mirror. This change is caused by the trees that have made their way from her home to outside. Their branches have risen into the sky, blocking the moon, which is why the moon seems to be broken into many pieces. These pieces can be seen flashing at the top of the tallest oak tree.
(ii) When the trees move out of the house, it breaks the glass and the smell of the leaves and lichens still reaches the rooms of the house.
(iii) The poet, like most people, tried hard to recreate the forest in her veranda; however, she then realised that the trees themselves wished to be freed from the captivity of indoor life and badly wanted to go back to their natural habitat. This realisation causes her some embarrassment, as she held them captive against their will; hence she does not mention the departure of forests in her long letters.

4. Now that you have read the poem in detail, we can begin to ask what the poem might mean. Here are two suggestions. Can you think of others?
(i) Does the poem present a conflict between man and nature? Compare it with 'A Tiger in the Zoo.' Is the poet suggesting that plants and trees, used for 'interior decoration' in cities while forests are cut down, are 'imprisoned', and need to 'break out'?
(ii) On the other hand, Adrienne Rich has been known to use trees as a metaphor for human beings; this is a recurrent image in her poetry. What new meanings emerge from the poem if you take its trees to be symbolic of this particular meaning?

Ans. (i) Yes, the poem presents a conflict between man and nature. While nature is more free and unbounded, man prefers to live in bounded spaces and also wants to curb nature. He uses plants for interior decoration of houses, cuts trees to make a house for himself, kills animals for food or other purposes and cages them in zoos. In all these ways, man curbs nature and denies plants and animals the freedom in which they should live.

The poem shows that trees and plants are rebelling against man. They are striving to work their way out into the open. For instance, in the poem 'A Tiger in the Zoo', the poet presents the fact that animals feel bounded by cages. In the poem, 'A Tiger in the Zoo' the poet explains how the tiger is coned to a concrete cage when he should be roaming free in the wild. All he can do is take a few steps in his cage, however he loves to run and leap about in his natural habitat. Both the poets want us to realise that trees, plants, animals are living beings but are bounded by humans. This signifies the fact that plants and animals feel caged by humans and want to break out from the imprisonment at the hands of humans. They too have feelings and they may long for freedom. We must not imprison them for our amusement; we need to set them free. No matter what facilities we give them in captivity, it will never compensate for the freedom they will experience in their natural habitat.

(ii) If trees are symbolic of human beings, then it could be said that humans too want to break away from the shackles of the busy and selfish lives they lead. They also want to go out into the nature and be free. They work all day and sometimes all night to try and achieve something though they do not have the time to enjoy it. They keep striving hard in their routines as they feel cramped under the roofs of their homes and offices. Even they want to break free and go out into the peaceful nature.

5. You may read the poem 'On Killing a Tree' by Gieve Patel (Beehive - Textbook in English for Class IX, NCERT). Compare and contrast it with the poem you have just read.

Ans. In the poem 'On Killing a Tree' by Gieve Patel, the poet uses strong images to explain how it is not easy to kill and destroy a tree. Just stabbing, hacking or chopping it with a knife will not do. Only when the roots are pulled out of its source of nourishment and exposed to the elements will one be able to kill the tree. In both the poems, the poets consider the trees as living beings with human qualities. In the poem, 'On Killing a Tree,' the poet uses words like 'bleeding bark', 'heal', 'pain' and 'most sensitive' to personify the trees. The title itself likens the act of killing a tree to murder and brings out the brutality of cutting a tree. Similarly in the poem, 'The Trees' the poet also feels that it is not right for us to keep plants and trees in captivity simply to decorate our homes. They need to be out in the forests i.e. their natural habitat. Both poems convey an environmental message that we need to protect and preserve trees and prevent their destruction. This should be done by planting them, not in our closed homes but out in the open where they can be free with the rest of nature. We should not hurt them as they are also living and too feel pain. Both poems also bring out the fact that we human beings often just stand and watch atrocities committed against trees in silence. We stay aloof, negligent and unaffected by these brutal attacks on nature. The contrast between the two poems is seen in the way they end. In 'The trees', Adrienne Rich describes the trees breaking free and escaping from their captivity to freedom. In the poem, 'On Killing a Tree' however, the helpless tree is finally killed and is unable to escape the brutality of man.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS
EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. All night the roots work
to disengage themselves from the cracks
in the veranda floor.
The leaves strain toward the glass
small twigs stiff with exertion
long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof
like newly discharged patients
half-dazed, moving
to the clinic doors.



- (a) Why do the roots work all night?
(b) Why do the twigs get stiff?
(c) Which word mean "to get free" in the stanza?
(d) Which poetic device has been used in the last line of the passage?

- Ans.** (a) The roots work all night so that they can free themselves from the walls put around them by humans.
(b) The twigs get stiff due to the pressure they apply on the glasses.
(c) Disengage.
(d) Simile.

2. My head is full of whispers
which tomorrow will be silent.
Listen. The glass is breaking.
The trees are stumbling forward
into the night. Winds rush to meet them.
The moon is broken like a mirror,
its pieces flash now in the crown
of the tallest oak.

- (a) Why would the whispers be silent tomorrow?
(b) Why are the trees stumbling?
(c) Which word in the stanza is similar in meaning to 'Quiet'?
(d) Where is the poetess sitting at present?

- Ans.** (a) The whispers will be silent because the trees will move outside to the forest.
(b) The trees are stumbling because they are hurring and trying to move outside after breaking the glass.
(c) 'Silent'.
(d) The poetess is sitting in her room.

3. The trees inside are moving out into the forest,
the forest that was empty all these days
where no bird could sit
no insect hide
no sun bury its feet in the shadow
the forest that was empty all these nights
will be full of trees by morning.

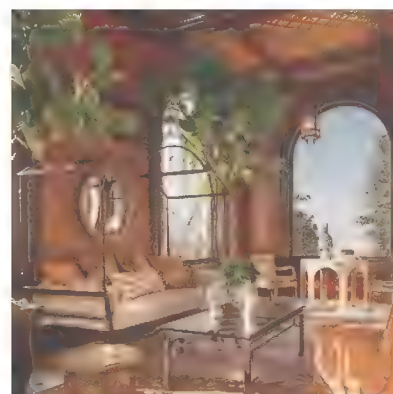
- (a) Where are the trees?
(b) Why can't birds sit on them or insects hide in them?
(c) Why was the forest empty?
(d) How are trees helping others?
(e) What type of trees are these?

Ans. (a) The trees are in a house.

- (b) These are not real trees. These are the trees in a picture or decorative trees in a house. So birds can't sit in them and insects cannot hide there.
(c) Because all the tree have been shifted inside the house.
(d) By providing oxygen and shelter.
(e) These are decorative or trees in a picture.

4. I sit inside, doors open to the veranda
writing long letters
in which I scarcely mention the departure
of the forest from the house.
The night is fresh, the whole moon shines
in a sky still open.

- (a) Where is the poetess sitting and what is she doing?
(b) What does she not mention in her letters?
(c) How does the poetess describe the night and the moon?
(d) Where are the doors opening to?



- Ans.** (a) The poetess is sitting in her room and she is writing long letters.
(b) She does not mention the departure of the forest from the house.
(c) The night is pleasant and fresh. The full moon is shining.
(d) The doors are opening into the veranda.

5. Listen. The glass is breaking.
The trees are stumbling forward
into the night. Winds rush to meet them.
The moon is broken like a mirror,
its pieces flash now in the crown
of the tallest oak.
(a) What is happening to the glass?
(b) What does the poetess say about the trees?
(c) How does the poetess describe the moon?
(d) Why does the wind rush?

- Ans.** (a) The glass is breaking.
(b) The poetess says that the trees are stumbling forward into the night.
(c) The poetess says that the moon is like a broken mirror.
(d) The wind rushes to meet the trees.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. Where are the trees in the poem? What do their roots, their leaves and twigs do?

- Ans.** The poem by Adrienne Rich is referring to the trees grown indoors for their aesthetic beauty. The poet imagines that the trees are stifled in confined places and struggle to move in the open towards their natural habitat. The roots make a deliberate effort to disentangle themselves from the cracks in the floor while the leaves and twigs exert themselves to break the glass barrier of the window and emerge into the open.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words.

1. 'Departure is painful'. So is the departure of the trees painful for the poetess. What will happen after their departure?

- Ans.** Just like the departure of someone close to us is painful, so also is the departure of a tree. When they are planted as a sapling they look nice and enhance the beauty of our surroundings. But as they grow and spread out their branches, they look wild and require more space for their growth. The roots create cracks in the floor and the leaves stretch out in the need of sunlight towards the glass. The soft twigs become strong and stiff. So the trees need to be removed from the house. Now the leaves do not cover the sky, however, the trees are welcomed by the wind. The moon resembles a broken mirror, reflecting off the leaves. The poetess reveals that she will feel lonely after the trees' departure.

2. What is the central idea of the poem. 'The Trees'?

- Ans.** The poem, 'The Trees' states that in the conflict between man and nature, man has caused much harm to nature. Man has learnt to acquire a lot of material goods, but has forgotten the importance of nature and large forests have been cut down. Man has also killed animals and water bodies have been destroyed. Man has judged nature wrongly to be weak, whereas nature is the most powerful. Any natural disaster cannot be prevented, though we are moving in a technologically advanced world. The destructive forms of nature for eg : flood, earthquake, volcanoes, tornadoes etc. teach man that the real power lies with nature and it can do anything.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

Answer the following questions.

1. Read the extracts and answer the questions that follow.

(a) The night is fresh, the whole moon shines

in a sky still open

the smell of leaves and lichen

still reaches like a voice into the rooms.

My head is full of whispers

which tomorrow will be silent.

(a) What description of the moon does the poet give?

(b) What is smell compared to?

(c) Which figure of speech is used here?

(d) Name the poet and the poem.

2. Justify the revolt of the trees and state two values which the man should possess to stop the revolt.

3. How does the poetess describe the night? How does she feel?

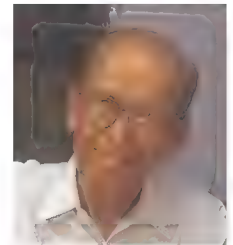
4. Explain the phrase "the forest that was empty all these days". After reading the poem, for whom do you think are the forests needed?

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

SUMMARY

This is a story about the first bus journey of an eight-year-old girl. Her name was Valliammai. She was called Valli for short. She was a curious girl. She wanted to know many things. She did not have playmates of her own age. Her favourite pastime was standing in the front doorway of her house to see what was happening outside.

Watching the happenings in the street gave her many new unusual experiences. The most fascinating thing of all was the bus that passed through the street each hour. The bus travelled between her village and the nearest town. The sight of the bus was a source of unending joy for Valli. It was a great joy for her to watch new sets of passengers every time the bus passed through the street. As she watched the bus day after day, she developed a desire to have a ride on that bus. Her wish became stronger and stronger until it was an overwhelming desire.



Vallikannan

Valli carefully listened to the conversations between her neighbours and people who had travelled on the bus or who regularly used it. She asked some casual questions also. In this way, she learnt about small details about the journey. She gathered knowledge that the town was six miles away from her village and it took forty-five minutes to reach there by bus. The fare was thirty paise for one way. One could keep sitting on the bus and return to the village by paying another thirty paise. Valli planned her journey to the town and back. It would be her first journey out of her village. She saved every paisa by resisting her desire to buy ice cream, toys, balloons etc. She had also sacrificed her desire to visit the village fair and have a ride in the merry-go-round. When she had saved sixty paise, she was ready for her first bus journey.

Then she planned how she would slip out of the house for her first bus journey. She knew that her mother slept daily after lunch. She decided to use these hours for her journey. She decided to board the bus at one o'clock so that she could be back by two forty-five. So one fine spring day, Valli boarded the bus. The conductor, seeing her confidence, allowed her to board the bus. He was a jolly fellow. He understood that Valli spoke with pride. He called her Madam and offered a seat. He asked others to make way for the 'madam'. There were only six or seven passengers on the bus. They were all looking at Valli. She overcame her shyness, quickly walked to an empty seat and sat down.

Valli looked around her in the bus. The bus had a fine painting of green stripes on the white. It had soft and comfortable seats. It had a beautiful clock above the windscreen. The overhead bars shone like silver. Then she tried to look outside. She found her view cut off by a curtain that covered the lower part of her window, so she stood on her seat to enjoy the outside scene. The bus moved along the bank of a canal. She could see palm trees, mountains and the blue sky. On the other side, there were green fields. Suddenly an elderly man warned Valli not to stand on the seat. He called her a child and said that she could fall and get hurt. But Valli didn't care for him. She told him proudly that she was not a 'child'. She had paid the full fare like the others. The conductor told the man that Valli was a grown-up 'madam'. Valli looked at the conductor angrily and said that she was not a madam. The conductor advised her that she should not stand on the seat. He warned her that she could fall when the bus took sharp turns. But Valli ignored his remarks also.

On the way, the bus stopped and some new passengers got on. Afraid of losing her seat, Valli finally sat down on her seat. An elderly woman came and sat beside her. Valli looked at the woman. She found her repulsive. She had ugly earrings. She was chewing betel. Valli could see that the betel juice was likely to spill over her lips. That woman asked Valli whether she was travelling all alone. Valli told her that she was alone and she had got a ticket too. Then the old woman asked her if it was proper for a child to travel alone. She also asked whether Valli knew exactly where she was going in town. Valli told the old woman that she need not bother about her. Then she turned her face towards the window.

The bus moved on across a bare landscape. Valli was enjoying the outside scene. Trees came running towards them. Sometimes, the bus seemed to strike the oncoming vehicle. But both passed safely. Suddenly Valli clapped her hands with joy. A cow was running in the middle of the road, in front of the bus. The bus slowed down. The driver sounded the horn again and again. But the cow became more frightened and continued running before the bus. Valli laughed and laughed until there were tears in her eyes. At last the cow moved off. The bus passed by the side of a railway crossing. Valli enjoyed the scene of trains. Then the bus entered the city area. There were huge crowds of people. Valli looked at different things with surprise. Then the bus reached the city bus stand and stopped. Everybody got off the bus except Valli. The conductor asked Valli to get down.

But she told him that she was going back on the same bus. He was surprised and asked her why she had come to the city. She replied that she just wanted to take a ride on the bus. He asked Valli if she would like to have a look at the sights outside the bus. Valli said that she was afraid of that. He asked to have a cold drink. Valli said that she had not enough money for that. The conductor offered to pay for her drink. But Valli did not accept the offer.

The bus resumed its return journey. There were the same wonderful sights. Valli enjoyed the scene again. But suddenly she saw a young cow lying dead, by the roadside. It had been struck by a fast moving vehicle. She asked the conductor if it was the same cow they had seen earlier. The conductor nodded. Valli became sad. It had been a lovable, beautiful creature just a little ago. But now the cow was without its charm and its life. The bus moved on. The memory of the dead cow haunted Valli. She no longer wanted to see out of the window. She kept sitting on her seat until her village came. She got down and wished the conductor. The conductor smiled. He told Valli that whenever she felt like riding the bus she could come and join them. Valli reached home. She found her mother was awake. She was talking to her aunt who lived in South Street. She was a chatterbox. She asked Valli where she had been. She didn't reply but just smiled. Her mother and the aunt were discussing the things in the world outside. Her mother said that no one could know everything. At this Valli remarked that there were many things happening without our knowledge. Her mother asked what she meant. Valli's aunt called her a chit of a girl. She took interest in things which did not concern her. She behaved as if she were a grown-up lady. Valli smiled to herself. She didn't want them to understand her smile.

NCERT SOLVED QUESTIONS

Oral Comprehension Check

1. What was Valli's favourite pastime?

Ans. Valli's favourite pastime was standing in the front doorway of her house, watching what was happening in the street outside. It was every bit as enjoyable as any of the elaborate games other children played. It gave her many new unusual experiences.

2. What was a source of unending joy for Valli? What was her strongest desire?

Ans. A source of unending joy for Valli was the sight of the bus, filled each time with a new set of passengers. Her strongest desire was to ride the bus once.



3. What did Valli find out about the bus journey? How did she find out these details?

Ans. About the bus journey, Valli found out that the town was six miles from her village, the fare was thirty paise one way, the trip to the town took forty five minutes, and she could return home on the same bus. She found out these details by carefully listening to the conversations between her neighbours and the people who regularly used the bus. She also asked a few discreet questions here and there.

4. What do you think Valli was planning to do?

Ans. Valli was planning to undertake her first bus ride. She planned to take the one o'clock afternoon bus. It would reach the town at one forty-five. And she would be back by about two forty-five while her mother was asleep.

5. Why does the conductor call Valli 'madam'?

Ans. The conductor called Valli 'madam' because of her commanding behaviour and curt replies. She shouted, 'Stop the bus! Stop the bus!' The conductor stretched out a hand to help her in getting on the bus. Then she curtly replied, 'Never mind, I can get on by myself.' There are such other instances while on the journey where she behaved very maturely.

6. Why does Valli stand up on the seat? What does she see now?

Ans. Valli stood up on the seat because when she started to look outside she found her view cut off by a canvas blind that covered the lower part of the window. So she stood up to peer over the blind. On one side, Valli was able to see the canal, the palm trees, the grassland, the distant mountains and the blue sky. On the other side, she saw a deep ditch and then acres and acres of green fields.

7. What does Valli tell the elderly man when he calls her a child?

Ans. When the elderly man called Valli a child, she told him that there was no one here who is a child. She haughtily told him that she had paid her thirty paise like everyone else. She made it clear to him that she didn't like to be called a child.

8. Why didn't Valli want to make friends with the elderly woman?

Ans. Valli didn't want to make friends with the elderly woman because she found her absolutely repulsive. She had very big holes in her ear lobes and ugly earrings in them. The way she was chewing the betel nut, the juice of which was threatening to spill over her lips at any moment resisted Valli to be sociable with her.

9. How did Valli save up money for her first journey? Was it easy for her?

Ans. Valli saved up money for her first journey by resisting every temptation to buy peppermints, toys, balloons and the like. She saved every coin that came her way. On the day of the village fair, she resolutely stifled a strong desire to ride the merry-go-round. As a kid, it was not an easy task for her to save money as she had to sacrifice all her strong desires.

10. What did Valli see on her way that made her laugh?

Ans. When Valli saw a young cow, tail high in the air, running very fast in the middle of the road to save her life, right in front of the bus, she clapped her hands with glee. The more the bus driver honked, the more frightened the cow became and ran even faster, right in front of the bus.

11. Why didn't she get off the bus at the bus station?

Ans. She didn't get off the bus at the bus station because she was too afraid to go all by herself and didn't know anything about the city. She wanted only to ride the bus. Moreover, she didn't have any money, she had enough money to buy the tickets only.

12. Why didn't Valli want to go to the stall and have a drink? What does this tell you about her?

Ans. Valli didn't want to go to the stall and have a drink because she didn't have enough money. She even refused to take the cold drink offered by the conductor. This tells us that she was self-respecting with power to resist temptations. Possibly, she did not want to take the obligation, particularly from a stranger.

Thinking About the Text

1. What was Valli's deepest desire? Find the words and phrases in the story that tell you this.

Ans. Valli's deepest desire was to ride on the bus, even if just once. The following words and phrases in the story tell us this.

- '..... gradually tiny wish crept into her head and grew there.'
- 'Valli would stare wistfully at the people who got on or off the bus
- Overwhelming desire
- She wanted to ride on that bus, even if just once.

2. How did Valli plan her bus ride? What did she find out about the bus, and how did she save up the fare?

Ans. Valli planned to use the hours of napping of her mother from one to four or so for her first bus ride. She would take the one o'clock afternoon bus, reach the town at one forty-five and be back home by about two forty-five.

About the bus she found out that the town was six miles from her village and the fare was 30 paise one way. The trip to the town took 45 minutes. She could return home on the same bus.

She saved every coin that came her way by resisting every temptation for peppermints, toys, balloons, a ride of the merry-go-round, the village fair and finally she saved sixty paise that she needed for the bus fare.

3. What kind of a person is Valli? To answer this question, pick out the following sentences from the text and fill in the blanks. The words you fill in are the clues to your answer.

- (i) "Stop the bus! Stop the bus!" And a tiny hand was raised _____.
- (ii) "Yes, I _____ go to town", said Valli, still standing outside the bus.
- (iii) "There's nobody here _____", she said haughtily. "I've paid my thirty paise like everyone else."
- (iv) "Never mind", she said, "I can _____. You don't have to help me." "I'm not a child, I tell you", she said,
- (v) "You needn't bother about me. I _____", Valli said, turning her face toward the window and staring out.
- (vi) Then she turned to the conductor and said, "Well, sir, I hope _____"

Ans. (i) commandingly, (ii) simply have to, (iii) who's a child, (iv) get on by myself; irritably, (v) can take care of myself, (vi) to see you again.

Valli seems to be a much confident girl who doesn't like to be treated as a kid. She wants to lead her life like adults do. This might be the reason she decided to go alone on the bus ride. She is having a great sense of self respect which prevents her from taking anyone's obligation. She feels that she is able to take care of herself and gets irritated when anyone treats her as a child.

4. Find the lines in the text which tell you that Valli was enjoying her ride on the bus.

Ans. (i) "Oh, it was all so wonderful!"

(ii) 'Suddenly Valli clapped her hands with glee. A young cow, tail high in the air, was running very fast, right in the middle of the road, right in front of the bus.'

(iii) 'She laughed and laughed until there were tears in her eyes.'

(iv) 'Valli wasn't bored in the slightest and greeted everything with the same excitement she'd felt the first time.'

5. Why does Valli refuse to look out of the window on her way back?

Ans. On her way back, Valli saw a cow lying dead. That was the same cow which ran in front of the bus on her trip to the town. The memory of the dead cow haunted her and dampened her enthusiasm. So she refused to look out.

6. What does Valli mean when she says, "I was just agreeing with what you said about things happening without our knowledge."

Ans. When Valli says so, she means things do happen without our knowledge. There are so many things happening in this world and we can't be aware about everything. Valli made her first bus ride to the town and came back home without her mother's knowledge so she completely agrees with the fact.

7. The author describes the things that Valli sees from an eight-year old's point of view. Can you find evidence from the text for this statement?

Ans. Following lines substantiate the above statement-

(i) "The bus was now going along the bank of a canal. The road was very narrow."

(ii) "Suddenly Valli clapped her hands with glee. A young cow, tail high in the air, was running very fast, right in the middle of the road, right in front of the bus."

(iii) "A speck of a train could be seen in the distance, growing bigger and bigger as it drew near."

(iv) "Such big, bright-looking shops! What glittering displays of clothes and other merchandise! Such big crowds!"

Like a typical young child, Valli found the cow running in front of the bus so funny that she could not control her daughter. Also, on her way back she refused to even look out of the window after watching that cow lying dead on the road side. This describes the reaction of an immature kiddish mind.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. But for Valli, standing at the front door was every bit as enjoyable as any of the elaborate games other children played. Watching the street gave her many new unusual experiences.

(a) Why did Valli kept on standing at the doorway?

(b) How did Valli feel while standing at the doorway?

(c) Find a word from the extract which means 'not very common'.

(d) How was Valli different from children of her age?

Ans. (a) Valli kept on standing at the doorway to watch the happenings on the street outside.

(b) Watching the street gave Valli many new experiences. She felt joyous standing at the doorway.

(c) Unusual.

(d) Valli was different from children of her age as she was not interested in playing any elaborate games.

2. Over many days and months, Valli listened carefully to conversations between her neighbours and people who regularly used the bus, and she also asked a few discreet questions here and there. This way she picked up various small details about the bus journey. The town was six miles from her village. The fare was thirty paise one way- "which is almost nothing at all," she heard one well-dressed man say, but to Valli, who scarcely saw that much money from one month to the next, it seemed a fortune. The trip to the town took forty-five minutes. On reaching the town, if she stayed in her seat and paid another thirty paise, she could return home on the same bus. This meant that she could take the one-o'clock afternoon bus, reach the town at one forty-five, and be back home by about two forty-five.

(a) What did Valli carefully listen to?

(b) What seemed 'a fortune' to Valli?

(c) How much time did the bus take from Valli's village to the city?

(d) Find a word from the passage which means 'hardly.'

Ans. (a) Valli listened carefully to conversations of her neighbours who used the bus regularly.

(b) 'Thirty paise' seemed 'a fortune' to Valli.

(c) It took forty-five minutes.

(d) Scarcely.

3. "Okay, okay, but first you must get on the bus," said the conductor, and he stretched out a hand to help her up. "Never mind," she said, "I can get on by myself. You don't have to help me."
- (a) Why did the conductor gave Valli a hand of help?
- (b) How did Valli reacted the conductor?
- (c) Find a word from the extract which means 'extended'.
- (d) What trait of Valli's character has been shown in the extract?

Ans. (a) The conductor gave a helping hand to Valli so that she could climb the bus.
(b) Valli refused taking help from the conductor and said that she would get on the bus by herself.
(c) Stretched.
(d) The extract shows Valli as a self-dependent girl who didn't wish to seek anybody's help.

4. Valli devoured everything with her eyes. But when she started to look outside, she found her view cut off by a canvas blind that covered the lower part of her window. So she stood up on the seat and peered over the blind.

The bus was now going along the bank of a canal. The road was very narrow. On one side there was the canal and, beyond it, palm trees, grassland, distant mountains, and the blue, blue sky. On the other side was a deep ditch and then acres and acres of green fields-green, green, green, as far as the eye could see. Oh, it was all so wonderful!

- (a) How was Valli's view cut off?
- (b) Why did Valli stand up on the seat?
- (c) There were fields on one side of the road. What was there on the other side?
- (d) Find a word from the passage which means 'curtain'.

Ans. (a) Valli's view was cut off by a canvas curtain that covered the lower part of her window.
(b) She stood up on the seat because a canvas blind cut off the view for her.
(c) There was a canal on the other side.
(d) Blind.

5. The bus rolled on now cutting across a bare landscape, now rushing through a tiny hamlet or past an odd wayside shop. Sometimes the bus seemed on the point of gobbling up another vehicle that was coming towards them or a pedestrian crossing the road. But lo! somehow it passed on smoothly, leaving all obstacles safely behind. Trees came running towards them but then stopped as the bus reached them and simply stood there helpless for a moment by the side of the road before rushing away in the other direction.
- (a) What did the bus pass by?
- (b) How does the author describe the landscape?
- (c) How did the trees appear from the moving bus?
- (d) Find a word from the passage which means 'village'.

Ans. (a) The bus passed by a bare landscape, a tiny hamlet or an odd wayside shop.
(b) The author says that the landscape was bare.
(c) The trees appeared to be coming towards the moving bus, then stopped as the bus reached and simply stood there.
(d) Hamlet.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. Why did Valli keep standing in front of the door?

Ans. Valli kept standing in front of the door as there were no playmates of her age on her street. So, she used to keep on watching the street outside her house.

2. What details did Valli pick up about the bus journey? How did she pick these details?

Ans. The details that Valli picked up were the distance that the bus travelled, the duration and fare along with the time. She gathered this information by hearing the conversation of others and by asking a discreet question or two.

3. How was the interior and exterior of the bus?

Ans. It was a new bus. Its outside was painted a gleaming white with some green stripes along the sides. Inside, the overhead bars shone like silver. There was a beautiful clock above the windshield and its seats were soft and luxurious.

4. How was the view outside the bus when it went through the canal?

Ans. On one side there was the canal and, beyond it, palm trees, grassland, distant mountains, and the sky. On the other side was a deep ditch and then acres and acres of green fields.

5. Give examples from the text to show that Valli was a meticulous planner?

Ans. The passage provides evidence that Valli was a keen observer as well as a meticulous planner. Her desire to experience a bus ride was realized by systematic and organised planning. She had collected all the useful information by observing and planning and making discreet inquiries about the time of the bus, the duration of the journey as well as the fare. She was focussed and saved every penny to finance her trip and finally accomplished it by efficient execution of her plans.

6. How can you say that the conductor was a good natured jolly fellow? Support your answer with examples.

Ans. The conductor of the bus was a good natured fellow, with pleasant manners. He was concerned that such a small girl was travelling to town alone and took care that she was comfortably seated. When Valli objected to being treated as a child, he took it in good spirit and jokingly addressed her 'Madam'. His behaviour, thus, reflects the congeniality of his nature.

7. How did Valli feel on seeing the dead cow on the road?

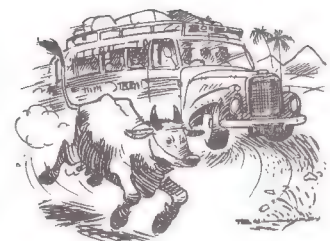
Ans. Valli was filled with sadness. She thought what had been a lovable, beautiful creature just a little while ago had now suddenly lost its charm and its life and looked so horrible and frightening.

8. Why does Valli refuse to look out of the window on her way back?

Ans. Valli refused to look out of the window on her way back because the memory of the dead cow haunted her, dampening her enthusiasm.

9. What was the most fascinating thing for Valli?

Ans. Valli's source of unending joy was to have a bus ride. That was her tiny wish which grew into a strong desire with the passage of time. Her desire turned into a longing as she wistfully stared at the faces of the passengers who got on or off the bus.



LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words.

1. Write a character sketch of Valli.

Ans. Valli was an eight-year-old girl born in a small village. However, she was a very curious girl. She spent her time standing in the front doorway of her house, watching what was happening in the street outside. Watching the street gave her many new and unusual experiences. Her curiosity about travelling on the bus to the town urged her on to plan her trip. She was very meticulous in planning for the trip. She calculated the distance between her home and the town, the time it took for a trip up and down by bus etc. Valli also proved to be very impressive and bold by finally deciding to ride in the bus. Her childish innocence veiled by her smart and bold outlook amused the conductor who offered her a seat in the bus. Valli thoroughly enjoyed her ride to the town, and laughed and clapped when the young cow ran on the middle of the road in front of the bus. But her enjoyable bus ride became a bad experience on her return journey. She saw the same cow lying dead on the road. This sight haunted her, dampened her spirits, and saddened her. This is typical of the tendency of a matured person. She refused to look out of the window thereafter. Valli, on the whole, can be described as a curious, joyful, disciplined, smart, bold, and at the same time, a mature girl.

2. The people and surroundings are a great book to learn. Valli in the lesson 'Madam Rides The Bus' learns a lot from others. Mention the traits of her character which help her to learn from her surroundings.

Ans. Valli dreamt of riding on the bus. Her eagerness to fulfill her dream fired her curiosity. This curiousness led her to listen to the conversations of people going on the bus ride and asking discreet questions so that she could gather as much information as she can regarding the bus journey.

On the bus journey, Valli acted confidently and behaved maturely. She did not consider herself to be any less than an adult. She was focused on fulfilling her dream and did not get tempted to go outside the bus and explore the town when the bus reached the town.

On the return journey, she learnt about death when she came to terms with the dead cow. This made her aware of the fact that death is a part of life and should be accepted as it is a natural phenomenon. Thus, the bus journey made her learn a lot of things.

3. Justify the statement with instances that Valli was a mature girl and ahead of her age?

Ans. Valli was an eight-year-old village girl. She had no playmates. Her favourite pastime was to stand at the doorstep and watch things and people. She not only satisfied her curiosity but also gained new experiences. Her strongest desire was to take a bus-ride. She meticulously planned for it - gathered information about the distance, time and ticket money (fare). Showing self-restraint, she resisted the temptation to buy peppermint, toys or a ride on the merry-go-round in order to save 60 paise for the bus journey. She boarded the bus without anyone's help, refused a free treat by the conductor and didn't talk to strangers. This shows her commanding, confident and self-dependent nature. This also shows her determination and maturity at such a little age.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

Answer the following questions.

1. There was a girl named Valliammai who was called Valli for short. She was eight-years-old and very curious about things. Her favourite pastime was standing in the front doorway of her house, watching what was happening in the street outside. There were no playmates of her own age on her street, and this was about all she had to do.

(a) How did Valli pass her time?

(b) Write one personality trait of Valli from the above extract?

(c) Who is the girl referred to in the passage?

(d) What did she do in the doorway of her house?

2. What was Valli's favourite pastime?

3. Why was the conductor of the bus amused while talking to Valli?

4. Why did Valli not get off the bus when it stopped at the bus stand?

5. How did Valli manage to leave the house?

6. How did Valli save up money for her first journey? Was it easy for her? Justify.

FOG

SUMMARY

'Fog' written by Carl Sandburg, is a poem which is written in 25 words and the meaning of the poem is focused on the fog which arrives in Chicago. The poet has portrayed nature and its silent working.

For the poet, fog is not just a natural phenomenon, it is rather a creature. Fog has been compared with a cat as the way fog comes, is very similar to the ways of a cat. As a cat walks silently on its small feet, the fog also comes in the same manner, as if trying to avoid any attention.



CARL SANDBURG

The poet, Carl Sandburg, gives a wonderful comparison between the fog and a cat. When it arrives, it is so slow that you hardly notice it until you see or feel it. The same happens with the fog. Nobody can predict about the arrival of the fog. The fog arrives quietly and engulfs the entire place and stays on for some time. It creates troubles for everyone but stays there. It is not aware of what is happening around it. The fog causes many hurdles and incidents but it does not stay at one place for a long time. [After some time, when problems are over, the fog also disappears and it becomes clear all around.] As problems are over in due course of time, in the same manner fog also disappears and it becomes clear all around.

STANZAWISE EXPLANATION

The fog comes
on little cat feet.

In this stanza, the poet describes the arrival of the fog towards the city of Chicago. As we know, the fog consists of tiny droplets of water suspended in the air. Hence, it is a fluid, and fluids move in a flowing manner. Their movement has no solid manifestation. That is why it seems to the poet that the fog is gliding towards the city. He compares this gliding movement to the movement of a cat. This is a very apt comparison. Moreover, a cat is known to move surreptitiously. This is easy for the cat to do since the padding under its paws is very soft and it does not make any noise while the cat is moving. Similarly, the fog is also approaching Chicago silently but surely.

It sits looking
over harbour and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.

In this stanza, the poet describes the way in which the fog comes to Chicago only for a while and then it retreats. He continues the comparison of the fog with the cat. He says that like a cat, the fog sits on its haunches for a while and looks over the city of Chicago and its harbour. A cat is generally a very cautious creature and therefore, it cannot sit and relax in one place. Unlike dogs, they never even rest their bodies entirely on any surface, choosing instead to squat on their haunches. The fog is also a temporary visitor to Chicago, and that shows very clearly in its movement. It does not settle down anywhere, like dust particles. Instead, it only hovers over the city of Chicago.

That the fog should naturally move towards a water body such as the Chicago harbour is no mystery, since fog attracts water particles. However, the fog is not there to stay. As silently and surreptitiously as it had come, it also leaves Chicago soon enough. Hence, even in its retreat, its movement resembles the movement of a cat. That is why the poet's use of this extended metaphor is absolutely appropriate to describe the fog he has seen over Chicago.

NCERT SOLVED QUESTIONS

Thinking About The Poem

1. (i) What does Sandburg think the fog is like?
 (ii) How does the fog come?
 (iii) What does 'it' in the third line refer to?
 (iv) Does the poet actually say that the fog is like a cat? Find three things that tell us that the fog is like a cat.

- Ans.** (i) Sandburg thinks the fog is like a cat.
 (ii) The fog comes silently like a cat on its small feet.
 (iii) In the third line 'it' refers to the fog that has covered the city and it seems as if it is looking over the city like a cat.
 (iv) No, the poet does not actually say that the fog is like a cat. However, he has used cat as a metaphor for describing the fog. He says that the fog comes on its little cat feet, which implies that the fog is like a cat as it comes slowly. He also says that the fog looks over the harbour and the city and then moves on, implying that the fog has covered the city and is sitting and looking at it, thereby again comparing it to a cat. This is reiterated when he says that the fog looks over the city sitting on 'silent haunches'. This also shows the reference to a cat as a cat always sits with its knees bent. Hence, he has compared the fog to a cat without actually saying so.

2. You know that a metaphor compares two things by transferring a feature of one thing to the other.
 (1) Find metaphors for the following words and complete the table below. Also try to say how they are alike.
 The first is done for you.

Storm	Tiger	Pounces over the fields, growls
Train	Snake	Long rope like body
	Gush of wind	Very fast movement
	Snake	Long rope like body
Fire	Sun	Symbol of power
	Anger	Danger that surrounds both on the basis of their intensities
School	Temple	Teaches moral values, virtues
	Gateway	Leads to adulthood and a life of responsibility
Home	Shelter	Safety, warmth
	Nest	Provides hospitable, loving environment

3. Does this poem have a rhyme scheme? Poetry that does not have an obvious rhythm or rhyme is called 'free verse'.

- Ans.** This poem does not have a rhyme scheme as the sentences do not end with like-sounds. There is no pattern of similarity in the sounds of the ending words of any of the sentences, therefore the poem is written in free verse.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions.

1. The fog comes
on little cat feet.
It sits looking
over harbour and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.

- (a) What does the poet mean by little cat feet?
- (b) What do haunches mean?
- (c) How is the fog looking over the harbour and the city?
- (d) "It sits looking." what is the poetic device used here?
- (e) Who is 'it' referred to in the third line?
- (f) With what is the fog compared?
- (g) Where does the fog look and how?
- (h) What does the fog do in the end?
- (i) The expression 'silent haunches' means _____.
- (j) What does it do as long as it stays?

- Ans.** (a) Little cat feet here represents the silent and careful steps of a cat. The way the fog comes, it resembles the steps of a cat.
(b) Haunches mean hips.
(c) The fog looks over the harbour and the city by sitting on its haunches like a cat.
(d) Metaphor is used here.
(e) 'It' referred to in the third line is the fog.
(f) The fog is compared with a cat.
(h) It looks over the port and the city. It is like a cat sitting on its haunches.
(h) In the end, the fog marches on.
(i) sitting with knees bent
(j) It looks over the city and the harbour as long as it stays.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. How does the poet compare fog to a living being?

Ans. The poet compares the fog to a cat. The silent steps of a cat and the way it sits on its haunches is very similar to the way the fog comes and surrounds the city and looks over it.

2. What is very much specific about the fog?

Ans. The fog is a natural phenomenon. It falls during the winter season on the cold and chilly weather. It comes suddenly and moves away very silently. It does not spare anyone- the city, the trees or the harbour.

3. What is the central theme of the poem 'Fog'?

Ans. The fog comes silently and moves away silently. We should learn a lesson from it. We should indulge in our duty without being loud or any disturbance for others.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words.

1. Difficulties come but they are not to stay forever. They come and go. Comment referring to the poem 'Fog'.

Ans. Difficulties, when faced by people, tend to leave them hopeless and shattered. It takes a lot of courage to overcome any problem and to solve it. If we take a clue from the poem and compare difficulties to the fog, we find that just like the fog, difficulties also come and go. One need not be hopeless and lose courage when problems come, one should rather think of it as the fog, meaning that it has not come to stay but will always leave like the fog.

2. What metaphor has the poet used in the poem 'Fog'? Do you think it is appropriate?

Ans. In the poem 'Fog', Carl Sandburg has metaphorically compared the fog to a cat. The first strange thing about the metaphor is the comparison of a phenomenon with a living animal. Perhaps the poet wants to emphasize the silent nature and mysterious ways of the fog, so he has compared the fog to a cat. A cat does not make a sound when it walks. So also is the fog, but its presence is apparent. Its "silence" is very much like that of a cat moving on its little feet. Then the fog stays in its place looking over the harbour and city which creates a hazy atmosphere all around. The way it sits is very much like a cat sitting on its haunches, looking here and there before it makes a move. This is as if the fog remains a silent spectator of the happenings in the city. Whatever the purpose may be, both the fog as well as a cat make their impression and make their presence felt. The comparison of the fog to a cat seems very appropriate because reading the poem, one feels that truly, the fog approaches stealthily, just like a cat.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

1. Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The fog comes
on little cat feet.
It sits looking
over harbour and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.

- (a) What is used as a metaphor for fog?
(b) Which places does the fog visit?
(c) Which figure of speech has been used in the stanza?
(d) The fog comes like a cat and



Answer the following questions.

2. What image does the poet give to the fog? What are the similarities between that image and fog?
3. How is the fog like a cat? What poetic device is used by the poet here?
4. Nature has many wonders that people take for granted and never pay attention to. How is the poem 'Fog' different from this perspective?

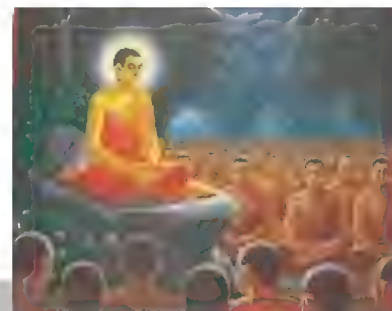
THE SERMON AT BENARES

SUMMARY

Sermon is a religious talk delivered by a prophet or Saint. In this chapter, we learn about the journey of Gautam Buddha from prince hood to his saintly life. After seeing the sufferings of the world, he left the palace at the age of 25 to seek enlightenment. He wandered for seven years here and there and under a peepal tree at Bodhgaya he got the enlightenment he wanted to seek. His first sermon was delivered at Benaras as it was considered to be the holiest place because of the river Ganga.

He thinks that he who seeks peace should draw out the arrow of lamentation, complaint and grief. He who has drawn out the arrow has become composed, and will obtain peace of mind; he who has overcome all such circumstances will be free from sorrow and be blessed.

This story is about a woman, Kisa Gotami, who is very sad at untimely demise of her son. She moved from door to door, but nobody could do any miracle and hence, everyone refused to come to her help. Finally, a person sent her to Buddha because he was aware that Buddha would surely help that poor woman to come to terms with her grief. Buddha finds an innovative approach to make that lady realize the imminent truth of death. Buddha said he would do that but he asked for a handful of mustard seeds. He further commanded it must be taken from a house where no one had lost a child,



husband, parent or friend. But since it is impossible to find such a house, she does not get what she was searching for. Finally, the poor lady realizes the important lesson which Buddha wanted to teach her.

This way she was taught that the lives of mortals in this world are troubled and there is no means by which one can avoid deaths. As all earthen vessels made by the potter end in being broken, so is the life of mortals. Death is inevitable.

NCERT SOLVED QUESTIONS

Oral Comprehension Check

1. When her son dies, Kisa Gotami goes from house to house. What does she ask for? Does she get it? Why not?

Ans. When her son died, Kisa Gotami went from house to house. She asked for medicine. No, she didn't get it because the people said that she had lost her senses and the boy was dead.

2. Kisa Gotami again goes from house to house after she speaks with Buddha. What does she ask for, the second time around? Does she get it? Why not?

Ans. Kisa Gotami again went from house to house after she spoke to the Buddha. Second time around she asked for a handful of mustard-seeds from a house where no one had ever died. She didn't get it because there wasn't any house where no one had lost any of their dear ones.

3. What does Kisa Gotami understand the second time that she failed to understand the first time? Was this what the Buddha wanted her to understand?

Ans. For the first time, Kisa Gotami went from house to house asking for a medicine that could cure her dead son. She was told that no medicine can make a dead man alive. The second time, she understood what Buddha wanted her to understand. Kisa Gotami understands that it is the fate of men, that their lives flicker up and extinguish again. Death is common to all.

Buddha wanted her to understand this and also this that in this valley of desolation there is a path that leads him to immortality who has surrendered all selfishness.

4. Why do you think Kisa Gotami understood this only the second time? In what way did the Buddha change her understanding?

Ans. I think Kisa Gotami understood this only the second time because after becoming weary and hopeless from her search for a deathless house, she sat down at the wayside watching the flickering and extinguishing lights of the city. This phenomenon leads her to understand that death is inevitable and common to all.

Buddha changed her understanding by explaining that the life of mortals in this world is troubled and brief and combined with pain. There isn't any means by which you can avoid dying. Ripe fruits are early in danger of falling. All earthen vessels end in being broken.

5. How do you usually understand the idea of 'selfishness'? Do you agree with Kisa Gotami that she was being 'selfish in her grief'?

Ans. By the idea of 'selfishness', I usually understand that a man thinks about himself only without any consideration for others' interests or reality of the world.

Yes, I agree with Kisa Gotami that she was being 'selfish in her grief.' For her son's life she forgot the reality of this mortal world where all are subject to death. Weeping for her dead son would not bring him back to life.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. At about the age of twenty-five, the Prince, heretofore shielded from the sufferings of the world, while out hunting chanced upon a sick man, then an aged man, then a funeral procession, and finally a monk begging for alms. These sights so moved him that he at once went out into the world to seek enlightenment concerning the sorrows he had witnessed.

- Why did Gautama Buddha go out to seek enlightenment?
- What did Gautama Buddha see while hunting?
- Find the exact word from the extract which means 'a state of high spiritual knowledge'.
- Describe the thought of Gautam Buddha while he encountered with the different stages of life.

Ans. (a) Gautama Buddha was highly moved by seeing the sufferings of man. So, he went out to seek enlightenment.

(b) Gautama Buddha chanced upon a sick man, then an aged man, then a funeral procession, and finally a monk begging for alms while hunting.

(c) Enlightenment.

(d) Gautam Buddha was so upset and worried while encountering the different stages of life as a sick man, an aged man, a funeral and a monk begging for alms.

2. The Buddha preached his first sermon at the city of Benares, most holy of the dipping places on the River Ganges; that sermon has been preserved and is given here. It reflects the Buddha's wisdom about one inscrutable kind of suffering.

- Where did Buddha preach his first sermon?
- What does the sermon preached by Buddha reflect?
- Find the exact word from the extract which means 'impossible to understand'.
- How Benares is described in the lesson?

Ans. (a) Buddha preached his first sermon at Benares.

(b) It reflects Buddha's wisdom about one inscrutable kind of suffering.

(c) Inscrutable.

(d) Benares is described in the lesson as the most holy of the dipping places on the river Ganges.

3. And the girl said, "Please tell me, sir, who is it?" And the man replied, "Go to Sakyamuni the Buddha." Kisa Gotami repaired to the Buddha and cried, "Lord and Master, give me the medicine that will cure my boy." The Buddha answered, "I want a handful of mustard-seed." And when the girl in her joy promised to procure it, the Buddha added, "The mustard-seed must be taken from a house where no one has lost a child, husband, parent or friend."

- What suggestion did a man give to Gotami?
- What request did Gotami make to the Buddha?
- What did Buddha ask the girl to do?
- Find a word from the passage which means the same as 'to get'.

- Ans.** (a) A man suggested her to go to Sakyamuni, the Buddha.
 (b) She requested Buddha to give her medicine that could cure her son and make him alive.
 (c) Buddha asked her to bring a handful of mustard seeds from a house where no one has lost a family member.
 (d) Repaired.
4. "Not from weeping nor from grieving will anyone obtain peace of mind; on the contrary, his pain will be the greater and his body will suffer. He will make himself sick and pale, yet the dead are not saved by his lamentation. He who seeks peace should draw out the arrow of lamentation, and complaint, and grief."
- (a) Who said these lines?
 (b) How can a person seek peace?
 (c) Find the exact word from the extract which means 'to express sadness about something'.
 (d) What effect does the weeping or grieving have on us?



- Ans.** (a) Buddha said these lines.
 (b) The person who seeks peace should draw out the arrow of lamentation, complaint and grief.
 (c) Lamentation.
 (d) Weeping or grieving makes our pain greater than before. The person will make ourselves sick and pale.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. Kisa compared human life to an inanimate object. What is it and why does she do so?
- Ans.** Kisa compared human life with the lights of the city which flicker up and get / are extinguished again and the darkness of the night spreads everywhere. Similarly, the human takes birth, their life flickers up and then the life is extinguished.
2. Where did Buddha preach his first sermon?
- Ans.** Gautama Buddha preached his first sermon at the city of Benares, which is regarded as the holiest of the bathing places on the banks of river Ganges.
3. How did Kisa Gotami realize that life and death is a process?
- Ans.** Kisa Gotami went from house to house but was unable to find one house where nobody had died. She was tired and hopeless and sat down at the wayside watching the lights of the city as they flickered up and were extinguished again. She realized that similar to the city lights human lives also flicker up for sometime and are extinguished again.
4. Which people are referred to as "wise" by the Buddha in his sermons?
- Ans.** Buddha preached in his sermons that everything that is born will come to its end. Death is inevitable: both young and adult or fools and wise are subject to death. But the people who do not grieve knowing the terms of the world are called wise people. Wise people neither weep nor grieve.
5. According to Kisa Gotami what is the greatest grief of life?
- Ans.** According to Kisa Gotami, the greatest grief in life is the death of one's loved ones and one's inability to stop them from dying. Therefore, instead of lamenting on it, the wise should not grieve. Weeping will only increase the pain and disturb the peace of mind of a person.
6. Why was Gautama known as the Buddha?
- Ans.** Gautama sat under a peepal tree until he attained enlightenment. After seven days, he got enlightenment and began to preach and share his new understandings. So, he came to be known as the Buddha (the Awakened or the Enlightened).
7. How did the Buddha teach Kisa Gotami the truth of life?
- Ans.** Buddha changed Kisa's thinking with the help of a simple act-asking her to procure a handful of mustard seeds from that house where none had died. She could not understand it. But when she went asking from door to door, she understood that death is inevitable.

8. Mention the incidents which prompted Prince Siddhartha to become a beggar.

Ans. Siddhartha while going for hunting saw a sick man, an old man, a funeral procession and a monk begging. This was his first encounter with suffering and grief. It made him sad and he immediately renounced everything.

9. Kisa Gotami was selfish and grief-stricken. Justify.

Ans. Kisa Gotami lost her only son. In her grief, she carried her dead child everywhere and asked people to cure him. As instructed by Buddha she went door to door to get a handful of mustard seeds with the condition that there should not be any loss of a child, husband, parent or friend. In her grief, she forgot that everyone had to suffer such type of loss in his or her family. Death is common to all. But in her grief, she became selfish and tried to fulfill the condition that was impossible.



10. With what does Buddha compare the death and decay of human beings?

Ans. Gautama Buddha says that just as ripe fruit are liable to fall, so mortals when born are always in danger of death. An earthen vessel made by the potter ends in being broken. Similarly, the life of all mortals will ultimately meet death.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words.

1. "The world is afflicted with death and decay", said the Buddha. Expand this thought revising Kisa Gotami's experience when she went to Buddha for a solution.

Ans. When Kisa Gotami went to the Buddha for the medicine to revive her son, Buddha told her to procure a handful of mustard seeds from a house where no one had ever died and gave her the seeds. She went to several houses and asked them if anyone in the family had died, and they answered that many were dead in the house and it aggrieved them to remember those dead people. She became weary and hopeless after going to several houses and getting the same response. As she sat wearily, she saw the city lights go out, and darkness reigned everywhere. She finally grasped the Buddha's underlying meaning. She returned to the Buddha and narrated her experience. Thereafter, the Buddha sermonized her that the life of mortals in this world is troubled and painful; that the world is afflicted with death and decay, and so there is no point in grieving over something which is inescapable.

2. How did Buddha seek and achieve enlightenment?

Ans. Once Gautama went for hunting. On the way, he saw a sick man, an old man, a funeral procession and a begging monk. He was filled with sorrow. He renounced everything and went out into the world to seek enlightenment concerning the sorrows he had witnessed after having wandered for seven years, Buddha sat under a peepal tree where he vowed to stay till he was enlightened. After being enlightened that took a week's time, he renamed the tree as Buddha Tree (Tree of Wisdom) and began to preach.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Buddha say about death and suffering? Explain by giving examples from the text.
2. Who was Gautama Buddha? What made him renounce his royal life and become a monk?
3. Why did Kisa Gotami go from house to house? In what way did the Buddha change her understanding?
4. How did Siddhartha Gautama get the name of Buddha?
5. What did Kisa Gotami learn in the end?

THE TALE OF CUSTARD THE DRAGON

SUMMARY

'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' is a comical poem written by Ogden Nash. A young lady named Belinda lived in a little white house with her four pets. They were Ink-a little black kitten, Blink-a little grey mouse, Mustard-a yellow dog and Custard-a little pet dragon. All the people of the house pride themselves on their fearlessness at make believe games, and they look down upon the poor Custard for his timidity. They often made fun of custard for his cowardice. But one day a pirate breaks into Belinda's house. He had pistols in both hands. Ink, Blink and Mustard ran away in fear and hide. Only Custard is ready with a suitably ferocious response and kills him. Belinda was very much happy with Custard. She embraced him. The dragon gobbles the pirate up and shows his friends that the dragon can be brave in certain circumstances. The other pets also danced with joy, but soon after they were again boasting of their bravery. Belinda was again taken in by them. She showered all her care for Ink, Blink and Mustard and leaving Custard crying for a nice safe cage. Not everyone knows the fact as who is brave and who is coward.



Ogden Nash

STANZAWISE EXPLANATION

Belinda lived in a little white house,
With a little black kitten and a little gray mouse,
And a little yellow dog and a little red wagon,
And a realio, trulio, little pet dragon.



In this stanza, we are introduced to Belinda who lives with her pets in a white house. These pets are a black kitten, a grey mouse, a yellow dog and a dragon. They all use a red wagon when they want to go out somewhere.

Now the name of the little black kitten was Ink,
And the little gray mouse, she called her Blink,
And the little yellow dog was sharp as Mustard,
But the dragon was a coward, and she called him Custard.

In this stanza, we are told that the kitten being black is known as Ink, the mouse being tiny as Blink, the dog being yellow as Mustard, and the dragon being cowardly as Custard. This stanza introduces the readers to the cowardice of Custard, the dragon.



Custard the dragon had big sharp teeth,
And spikes on top of him and scales underneath,
Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose,
And realio, trulio, daggers on his toes.

In this stanza, the description of Custard's physical appearance seems quite surprising to the readers as it shows all the features of a dragon that makes dragon powerful, scary and brave. The Custard is a full-grown dragon and could easily defend himself against any danger, for he had sharp teeth, spikes on his back, scales beneath his belly and dagger-like toes. He could also breathe fire. His nose becomes the chimney through which the smoke comes out from the fires in his mouth.

Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears,
 And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs,
 Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,
 But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

In this stanza, we are told that Belinda, Ink, Blink and Mustard were all brave, even though they were much smaller in size than Custard, but that Custard was so cowardly that he preferred to be caged if that would keep him safe. Her dog's bravery is compared to that of a tiger's anger. But Custard is completely opposite to his physical description and instead of being brave, always looks for a nice safe cage.



Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful,
 Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely called him Percival,
 They all sat laughing in the little red wagon
 At the realio, trulio, cowardly dragon.

In this stanza, we are told that Belinda and the others all made fun of Custard for being so afraid all the time. Belinda tickled the dragon without stopping and she did it quite cruelly to make it laugh. It should be noted that here the tickling is a very soft touch on body and it is related to softness. Since the dragon was such a coward, tickling worked on him. It does not work on rough bodies. Blink and Mustard ironically compared him with the brave knight called Percival, who had been in the service of King Arthur to show him how unlike Percival he really was.

Belinda giggled till she shook the house,
 And Blink said Week!, which is giggling for a mouse,
 Ink and Mustard rudely asked his age,
 When Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

In this stanza, we are told that whenever Custard wanted to be put in a cage, Belinda and Blink giggled a lot and she laughed so hard that it seemed that the house is shaking due to her laughter. Ink and Mustard asked him how old he was that he was scared of every little thing so as to make fun of him. But Custard just wanted a nice safe cage for himself.

Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound,
 And Mustard growled, and they all looked around.
 Meowch! cried Ink, and Ooh! cried Belinda,
 For there was a pirate, climbing in the window.

In this stanza, the poet describes a particular incident when Belinda and her pets all heard an unpleasant sound while they were busy making fun of the dragon. Mustard, sensing trouble, started growling. Ink and Belinda cried out in horror, and finally they saw that a pirate was climbing into their house through a window.

Pistol in his left hand, pistol in his right,
 And he held in his teeth a cutlass bright,
 His beard was black, one leg was wood;
 It was clear that the pirate meant no good.



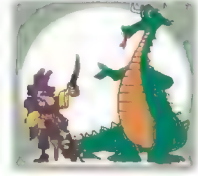
The appearance of the pirate seemed very dangerous as he was carrying many arms (guns) with him. The pirate had guns in both hands and was carrying a sharp blade between his teeth. He also had a black beard and a wooden leg indicating that he was a tough man, who must have lost his leg in some fight or battle. All in all, his appearance was quite sinister. His looks made it very clear to the housemates that the pirate meant to harm the house and the people living in there.

Belinda paled, and she cried, Help! Help!

But Mustard fled with a terrified yelp,

Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household,

And little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed.



Looking at the pirate, Belinda became pale with fear and cried for help. All her brave pets could not help her and everyone fled from the scene. Mustard with a huge cry ran away, Ink hid in the basement or attic, and Blink very smartly disappeared went into his mousehole leaving Belinda all alone in front of the pirate. Their bravery could not do them any good. When everyone fled on seeing the pirate, it was the coward dragon who came to rescue.

But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine,

Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon,

With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm

He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm.

Custard surprised everyone with his actions. He jumped in front of the pirate and made large noises through his nose. In fact, it sounded like an engine revving. Then Custard beat his tail against the floor, and that sounded like the metal chains in a dungeon being banged against one another. Finally, he charged towards the pirate in a same way that a bird charges at a worm that it will eat.

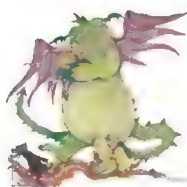
The pirate gaped at Belinda's dragon,

And gulped some grog from his pocket flagon,

He fired two bullets but they didn't hit,

And Custard gobbled him, every bit.

In this stanza, we are shown the pirate's reaction to Custard. He knew that he had no chance of winning against a dragon, so he just stared at Custard and took a drink of alcohol from his flagon, preparing to be eaten alive. He feebly fired two shots at Custard from his pistol, but he failed to hit him and Custard remained unharmed. And finally, Custard swallowed him up in one bite, without leaving any trace of him.



Belinda embraced him, Mustard licked him,

No one mourned for his pirate victim

Ink and Blink in glee did gyrate

Around the dragon that ate the pirate.

After Custard ate the pirate, to everyone's surprise, there was joy all over the house. Belinda gave Custard a hug and Mustard licked him. So both man and dog expressed approval in their own way. Nobody spared a thought for the pirate who had been eaten. Instead, Ink and Blink started dancing in a happy mood. Everyone enjoyed the death of the pirate.

But presently up spoke little dog Mustard,
 I'd have been twice as brave if I hadn't been flustered.
 And up spoke Ink and up spoke Blink,
 W'd have been three times as brave, we think,
 And Custard said, I quite agree
 That ever body is braver than me.

It became very clear that who is brave and who is a coward after the pirate incident. But Mustard started to give excuses for his cowardice and said that he would have been twice as brave as Custard if he had not gone nervous.

Belinda still lives in her little white house,
 With her little black kitten and her little gray mouse,
 And her little yellow dog and her little red wagon,
 And her realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

We are told that everything has gone back to normal again. Belinda is living once again in peace with her pets in her white house.

Belinda is as brave as a barrel full of bears,
 And Ink and Blink chase lions down the stairs,
 Mustard is as brave as a tiger in a rage,
 But Custard keeps crying for a nice safe cage.

In this stanza, we are told that Belinda, Ink, Blink and Mustard are still brave despite knowing that the pirate could have easily killed them all. On the other hand, Custard is still a coward and still longs for a safe cage.

NCERT SOLVED QUESTIONS

Thinking About The Poem

1. Who are the characters in this poem? List them with their pet names.

Ans. One human and four animals are the characters in this poem.

- | | | | |
|----|---------|---|------------|
| 1. | Belinda | – | the girl |
| 2. | Custard | – | the dragon |
| 3. | Ink | – | the kitten |
| 4. | Blink | – | the mouse |
| 5. | Mustard | – | the dog |

2. Why did Custard cry for a nice safe cage? Why is the dragon called cowardly dragon?

Ans. Custard cried for a nice safe cage because he was seemingly a coward. He thought that the house in which they lived was unsafe. The dragon is called 'cowardly dragon' because he is the only one in the house who is fainthearted. He always cries for a nice safe cage.

3. "Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful " Why?

Ans. Custard was a frightened little soul. Belinda did so out of affection. They all sat laughing in the little red wagon but the dragon used to cry for a nice safe cage. So Belinda would tickle the dragon unmercifully as she was sure he would never hurt her.

4. The poet has employed many poetic devices in the poem. For example : "Clashed his tail like iron in a dungeon"- the poetic device here is a simile. Can you, with your partner, list some more such poetic devices used in the poem?

Ans. • clatter, clank, jangling, weech, gowled and meowch (onomatopoeia).

- '..... Blink chased lions down the stairs.' (Exaggeration)
- 'That everybody is braver than me.' (Satire)
- **B**elinda was as **b**rave as a **b**arrel full of **b**ears. (Alliteration)
- **C**ustard **c**ried for a nice safe **c**age. (Alliteration)
- With a **c**latter and a **c**lank. (Alliteration)
- **G**aped at Belinda's dragon and **g**ulped some **g**rog. (Alliteration)
- 'W'd 'have been three times as brave ' (Paradox)
- 'But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine. (Simile)
- Sharp as mustard. (Simile)
- Mouth like a fire place. (Simile)
- As brave as a barrel full of bears. (Simile)
- He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm. (Simile)

5. Read stanza three again to know how the poet describes the appearance of the dragon.

Ans. Custard the dragon has big sharp teeth. On top it has spikes on his back and scales underneath on his belly. Its mouth emits fire like a fireplace. Smoke comes out of nose as if from a chimney. The claws on his toes may be sharp, hence the poet compares them to daggers.

6. Can you find out the rhyme scheme of two or three stanzas of the poem?

Ans. The rhyming scheme of the last three stanzas (13,14, 15) are-

Stanza 13 - aa bb cc

Stanza 14 - aa bb

Stanza 15 - aa bb

7. Writers use words to give us a picture or image without actually saying what they mean. Can you trace some images used in the poem?

Ans. Yes, we can find such type of imagery in this poem. In the third stanza, we have delineation of the dragon. Similarly, in the 8th stanza, there is depiction of the pirate.

(i) Description of Dragon :

Custard the dragon had big sharp teeth,
And spikes on top of him and scales underneath,
Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose,
And realio, trulio daggers on his toes. .

(ii) Description of Pirate :

Pistol in his left hand, pistol in his right,
And he held in his teeth a cutlass bright,
His beard was black, one leg was wood;
It was clear that the pirate meant no good.

(iii) Clashed his tail

irons in a dungeon
He went at the pirate like
a robin at a worm.

8. Do you find the Tale of Custard the Dragon to be a serious or a lighthearted poem ? Give reasons to support your answer.

Ans. I find this poem a light-hearted one. The following reasons support it. First, their names are rhyming ones- Ink: Blink, Custard: Mustard. Second, their humorous images of bravery-Ink and Blink chase lions down the stairs. Third, Dragon has fearsome body even then he keeps crying for a nice safe cage. Fourth, the coward dragon emerges the bravest. Belinda still lives with false friends.

9. This poem, in ballad form, tells a story. Have you come across any such modern song or lyric that tells a story? If you know one, tell it to the class. Collect such songs as a project.

Ans. This question is to be answered individually. The students should collect such poems and share in the class.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. Belinda lived in a little white house,
With a little black kitten and a little grey mouse,
And a little yellow dog and a little red wagon,
And a realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

- Where did Belinda live?
- How many pets did she have?
- Which word in the stanza means "carriage"?
- Whose young one known as a 'kitten'?

Ans. (a) Belinda lived in a little white house.
(b) She had four pets, a kitten, a mouse, a dog and a dragon.
(c) Wagon.
(d) A cat's young one is known as a kitten.

2. Now the name of the little black kitten was Ink,
And the little grey mouse, she called him Blink,
And the little yellow dog was sharp as Mustard,
But the dragon was a coward, and she called him Custard.

- (a) What was the name of the kitten?
- (b) What name did she give to the mouse?
- (c) Why was the dragon named as 'Custard'?
- (d) What was the name of the dog?

Ans. (a) The name of the kitten was Ink.
(b) She gave the name Blink to the mouse.
(c) The dragon was named as 'Custard' because he was a coward.
(d) The name of the dog was Mustard.

3. Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears,
And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs,
Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,
But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

- (a) How brave were the kitten and the mouse?
- (b) Why did Custard cry for a nice safe cage?
- (c) Which word is similar to "anger"?
- (d) Which figure of speech has been used in the first and the third line of the passage.

Ans. (a) The kitten and the mouse were so brave that they could scare away lions.
(b) Custard cried for a nice safe cage because he was a coward.
(c) Rage.
(d) Simile is used in the first and the third line. In line 1 - Alliteration - Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears.

4. Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful,
Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely called him Percival,
They all sat laughing in the little red wagon
At the radio, truly, cowardly dragon.

- (a) Why did everyone laugh?
- (b) Who was called Percival by Ink, Blink and Mustard?
- (c) How did the animals make fun of the dragon?
- (d) What was the colour of the wagon?

Ans. (a) Everyone laughed at the dragon because Belinda tickled him unmercifully.
(b) The dragon was called Percival by Ink, Blink and Mustard.
(c) All the animals laughed at him sitting in a little red wagon.
(d) The wagon was red in colour.

5. Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound,
And Mustard growled, and they all looked around.
Meowch! cried Ink, and Ooh! cried Belinda,
For there was a pirate, climbing in the winda.
- (a) Which poetic device is used in these lines?
(b) Why was everyone frightened?
(c) Which word in the stanza means "unpleasant"?
(d) What does a 'nasty sound' refer to?

- Ans.** (a) In the first line, the poet has used repetition in 'Suddenly, suddenly'.
(b) Everyone was frightened because a pirate was climbing up the window.
(c) The word is 'nasty'.
(d) A nasty sound refers to the entry of a pirate into the house.

6. Pistol in his left hand, pistol in his right,
And he held in his teeth a cutlass bright,
His beard was black, one leg was wood;
It was clear that the pirate meant no good.
- (a) How many weapons was the pirate carrying?
(b) Describe the physical appearance of the pirate.
(c) What does 'cutlass' mean?
(d) What is the rhyming scheme adopted in the stanza?

- Ans.** (a) The pirate was carrying two pistols in each hand and a cutlass in his teeth.
(b) The pirate's beard was black and he had one wooden leg. He looked very frightening.
(c) Cutlass is a small sword like weapon with a very sharp blade.
(d) The rhyme scheme adopted is aabb.

7. The pirate gaped at Belinda's dragon,
And gulped some grog from his pocket flagon,
He fired two bullets but they didn't hit,
And Custard gobbled him, every bit.
- (a) What did the pirate do on seeing the dragon?
(b) What did Custard do to the pirate?
(c) Which word means the same as "swallow"?
(d) Find from the passage a word which means a large bottle or similar container with a handle in which wine etc is sold or served.

- Ans.** (a) The pirate gulped some wine from his bottle.
(b) Custard swallowed the pirate and left no trace of him.
(c) Gobble.
(d) Flagon.

8. Belinda embraced him, Mustard licked him,
No one mourned for his pirate victim.
Ink and Blink in glee did gyrate
Around the dragon that ate the pirate.
(a) Whom did Belinda embrace?
(b) What did Mustard do?
(c) Who gyrated round Custard?
(d) What did no one mourn for?

Ans. (a) Belinda embraced Custard.
(b) Mustard licked Custard.
(c) Ink and Blink gyrated round Custard.
(d) No one mourned for the death of the pirate.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. Where did Belinda live and with whom?

Ans. Belinda lived in a little white house with her four pets in a wagon. She had a black kitten named Ink, a grey mouse named Blink, a yellow dog named Mustard and a coward dragon named Custard.

2. What did Custard look like?

Ans. Custard looked really dangerous with spikes on his top and scales underneath. His mouth was like a fireplace and nose like a chimney. His toes looked like daggers.

3. How did Belinda's pets other than Custard face the pirate?

Ans. All the animals other than the dragon used to boast about their bravery and they all made fun of the dragon. But when the pirate entered the house, all got scared and ran away and disappeared except Custard, the dragon. Custard faced him bravely, attacked him and gobbled every bit of him.

4. Describe the bravery of everyone in the house.

Ans. Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears. Ink and Blink were brave enough to chase lions away. Mustard's bravery was like a tiger's rage. It was only Custard, who was a coward, everyone else was very brave.

5. What did everyone do when the pirate came?

Ans. When the pirate came, Belinda cried for help and became pale with fear. Mustard ran away with a terrified cry and Ink trickled to the bottom of the house while Blink disappeared in his mouse hole. Custard jumped in front of the Pirate to fight him.

6. But Custard cried for a nice safe cage. Who is Custard? Why did he cry for a 'nice safe cage'?

Ans. Custard is Belinda's pet Dragon. He cried for a nice safe cage because he was a coward, who feared easily and looked for comfort and safety of himself.

7. How did they say their admiration for the dragon after the death of the pirate?

Ans. They became very happy. Belinda embraced him. Mustard licked him. Ink and Blink jumped around, surrounding him. They expressed their joy in this way. No one mourned for the pirate.

8. How is 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' a ballad?

Ans. A ballad is a poem that tells a story. The theme of a ballad is an adventure, bravery, romance, etc. Then it is highly musical due to its rhyme scheme. This poem has these qualities. But it is a parody of a ballad. The poet shows these qualities in a humorous way.

9. Did Custard accept his cowardice and their bravery?

Ans. Yes, Custard seemed like a really humble animal as even after killing the pirate he accepted that he is a coward and everyone else is braver than him.

10. How did Custard prove to be brave when the pirate came?

Ans. Custard, the dragon, jumped and snorted like an engine. He struck the pirate with his tail like irons. There were different sounds of clatter, clank and jangle. He attacked the pirate as a robin attacks a worm.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words.

1. Describe the fight between the dragon and the pirate.

Ans. The dragon had big sharp teeth, and spikes on top of him and scales underneath but everyone laughed at him as he always cried for a safe cage whereas everyone boasted about their bravery. But when the pirate entered, all were scared and ran away and disappeared except Custard who faced him boldly, attacked him, hit him hard with his forceful tail and gobbled every bit of him. All of them later felt obliged to Custard for saving their lives.

2. Why did Custard cry for a nice safe cage? Why the dragon is called 'cowardly dragon'? How did he prove everyone wrong?

Ans. The Custard every time cried for a nice safe cage because he thought that the little white house in which he lived with Belinda and her other friends was not safe.

The dragon appeared to be a coward as he always cried for a safe cage so he was called a 'cowardly dragon'. Later, when the pirate entered the house everyone was scared and ran and disappeared, except Custard who faced him boldly, attacked him, hit him hard with his forceful tail and gobbled every bit of him.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

Belinda paled, and she cried,

Help! Help! But Mustard fled with a terrified yelp,

Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household,

And little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed.

(a) How did the people in the house react on seeing the pirate?

(b) Why did everyone cry for help?

(c) What does 'mouseholed' mean?

(d) Write the antonym of 'bottom'.

Answer the following questions.

2. Who among them was actually brave? How did he show his bravery?

3. Why did Belinda cry for help? Who came to her help?

4. How did each of Belinda's pets react at the sight of the pirate?

5. How does the poet describe Belinda and her animals' bravery? How was Custard different from them?

6. The dragon, custard was considered a coward. The humble dragon proved his bravery in adversity. Analyse that certain qualities like bravery and courage are situational and spontaneous. Express your views with reference to the poem.

THE PROPOSAL

SUMMARY

Lomov pays a visit to his neighbor, Chubukov. He is wearing a dress-suit. Chubukov expresses a great pleasure. He welcomes him and gives him a warm handshake. But he is surprised to see him in a formal dress, and thinks that perhaps he is on his way to some engagement. Lomov tells him that he has no engagement except with him. He tries to explain the purpose of his visit, but he gets nervous and excited.

Chubukov has a daughter named Natalya. She is twenty-five, but unmarried. In fact, Lomov has come with a proposal to marry Natalya. He is so nervous that he finds it very difficult to tell Chubukov the purpose of his visit. He says that he has come to ask him for a favor, though he does not deserve it. Chubukov thinks that he has come to borrow money, and asks him not to beat about the bush. After much hesitation and stammering, Lomov tells him that he has come to ask for the hand of his daughter, Natalya. Chubukov naturally feels very happy and kisses him. He says that he will go to call his daughter and assures Lomov that she will at once accept this proposal. When Lomov is left alone, he feels that he is cold and his whole body is trembling. He thinks that Natalya is an excellent housekeeper, not at all bad-looking, well-educated - what more he should ask. Moreover, if he does not marry now, he will never get married. He has been already thirty-five. He has a weak heart, and he suffers from palpitation. The worst of all is the way he sleeps. He hardly lies down and begins to doze when he gets a pull in his left side and something begins to hammer in his left shoulder and in his head. He walks about a little, lies down again and feels the same way again. This continues the whole night. Only a well-regulated life can help him in this respect. Marriage alone can bring this much-needed peace and regularity in his life.

Natalya comes and is surprised to see Lomov, because her father has told her that there is a dealer who has come to sell something. She begs to be excused for wearing an apron and an old dress. She asks if he would like to have something to eat. Then she offers him smoke, and talks about the weather. She is also surprised to find him in a formal dress, and tells him that he seems to be looking better. She thinks that perhaps he is on his way to a ball. Lomov gets excited. He is unable to express the purpose of his visit. He wants to be brief, but in his excitement he starts beating about the bush. He speaks of the old relations of the Lomovs and the Chubukovs. He tells her that his late aunt and his late uncle had a great regard for her father and her late mother, and furthermore his property adjoins hers; his Oxen meadows touch her birchwoods.

Natalya is shocked to hear that the Oxen Meadows belong to Lomov. She claims that the meadows are hers, and not his. Poor Lomov feels all the more excited. He tries to explain that once there was a dispute over the Oxen Meadows, but now everybody knows that they belong to him. His aunt's grandmother put the meadows, free from all costs, into the hands of the peasants of her father's grandfather for a certain time while they were laying bricks for his grandmother. These people used the meadows free of cost for about forty years and began to consider the land as theirs. Natalya, however, does not believe it. Lomov is prepared to show the papers, but of no use. She tells him that they have owned the property for nearly three hundred years; the meadows are not worth much, but she cannot stand injustice.

If he keeps explaining it for two days, she will not be convinced. She does not want to take his property, and she refuses to give up what belongs to her. The discussion turns into a quarrel and the marriage proposal is forgotten. Natalya tells him that she will immediately send her reapers to the meadows. Lomov promises to turn them out. They shout at each other.

In the course of their quarrel, Chubukov enters. When he is arguing about the Oxen Meadows, he sides with his daughter. Lomov again tries to explain, but Chubukov does not listen. He tells Lomov that the latter cannot prove anything by yelling. He would rather give them to the peasants than let him claim them. Lomov becomes rude. Chubukov begs him to address him respectfully for he is not used to have people address him in that tone of a rude person. Lomov calls him a land-grabber, and tells him that he will prove in the court. Chubukov gets furious, calls him an intriguer and accuses his whole family. In this way, they start to pull each other's family. Lomov says the entire race of the Lomov has always been honorable, and never has one been brought to trial for embezzlement as Chubukov's uncle has been. Chubukov tells Lomov that the latter's grandfather was a drunkard and that his aunt had eloped with an architect. Lomov says that Chubukov's mother was humpbacked. So they drag their ancestors in their foolish quarrel.

Now Lomov gets much excited. The palpitation of his heart becomes unbearable. His eyes are blurred. His foot goes numb. It seems as though he were dying. He takes his hat, and staggers out of the room. Chubukov warns him not to come into his house again. The father and the daughter curse him and tell him all sorts of dirty names.

After Lomov has gone, Chubukov says that the fool had the courage to come to him with a marriage proposal. When Natalya hears that he had come to propose to her for marriage and that is why he was dressed in evening clothes, she begins to weep and falls into an armchair. She blames her father for not telling her that before. She goes into hysterics, and asks her father to bring him back immediately. The poor father feels embarrassed: they have insulted him and thrown him out of their house; and now he should call him back. How ridiculous! He feels like shooting himself. Natalya blames her father and calls him brutal. She thinks if it were not for him, Lomov would not have gone. Her behavior, indeed, is very funny. Chubukov rushes out and calls him back.

Lomov returns; he is in a wretched state. His heart is beating terribly; his side is hurting him; his leg is lamed. Natalya feels sorry for her mistake, and admits that the Oxen Meadows belong to him. She suggests that they should talk about something else. She wants to avoid every possibility of dispute, and wishes Lomov to make the proposal straight away. She asks him if he is going on hunting soon. Lomov replies that he expects to begin after the harvest. His dog, Guess, has gone lame: perhaps it is a dislocation, or maybe he has been bitten by some other dog.

Lomov is very proud of his dog; he has bought him for a hundred and twenty five roubles and thinks it is very cheap. Natalya however, does not agree. Her dog, Leap, cost more than eighty five roubles, and he is in every way better than Guess. They are again dragged into an argument over the superiority of each other's dogs. In his opinion, Leap is over-short; he has a short lower jaw, and therefore he cannot catch his prey. Natalya cannot stand this. She thinks that her dog is pure-bred, whereas his dog is old, ugly and skinny and nobody can figure out his pedigree. She does not like when a person does not say what he really thinks. In the course of hot discussion, Lomov again gets excited; he feels the palpitation of heart, and his heart is bursting.

The father again enters the room. Both turn to him for opinion. He says Guess certainly has his good points. He is from a good breed, has a good stride, strong haunches, and so forth. But he has two faults, he is old and he has a short lower jaw. Lomov tells Chubukov that on a hunting expedition, his dog-Guess had run neck to neck with the Count's dog. But Leap was left behind. Chubukov says that the Count struck his dog with a whip; that is why he was left behind. Lomov reminds him that his dog was whipped because instead of running after the fox, he bit the sheep. Chubukov, however, does not agree. He requests Lomov to stop that argument. But that does not seem possible. Chubukov gets angry. He tells Lomov to stay at home with his palpitation; he is not fit for hunting. They again abuse each other and call names. Lomov begins to see stars; every part of his body is bursting. He falls into a chair and faints.

Seeing Lomov faint, Natalya thinks that he is dead. She starts weeping and crying, and requests her father to call in the doctor. The poor father feels miserable. He holds a glass of water to Lomov's lips, but the latter does not drink water. The father finds himself in a terrible situation. He is so mad with desperation that he wants to shoot himself. In the meantime, Lomov comes to senses. He sees mist before his eyes. Chubukov does not want to take any more chance by leaving them alone. He at once speaks out that his daughter is willing to marry. He thrusts Lomov's hand into his daughter's hand and gives them his blessings. He just wants to be left



in peace. Lomov is still dazed. He is not able to understand what is going on. At last they kiss each other and are reconciled. But they again start quarrelling over their dogs. Natalya says, "Guess is worse than Leap. Lomov says, "Better". Amid their shouting, the poor old father shouts, "Champagne, Champagne".

NCERT SOLVED QUESTIONS

Thinking About the Play

1. What does Chubukov at first suspect that Lomov has come for? Is he sincere when he later says, "And I've always loved you, my angel, as if you were my own son"? Find reasons for your answer from the play.

Ans. Chubukov at first suspects that Lomov has come for borrowing money from him.

He was not sincere when he told Lomov that he had always loved him as his own son.

He treats Lomov rudely, even harshly on small matters such as ownership of worthless Oxen Meadows or superiority of the dogs. He abused him, cursed him, called him doublefaced intriguer, villain, scarecrow, blind hen, turnip ghost and so on. He had decided that he would not give money to Lomov. If he truly meant what he said, then he would not have thought of not giving money to him.

2. Chubukov says of Natalya : "...as if she won't consent! She's in love; egad, she's like a lovesick cat" Would you agree? Find reasons for your answer.

Ans. I would agree that she is in love. She is a love-sick cat. The following reasons from the play support it.

She is happy to see and receive Lomov.

When Lomov goes away and Natalya learns that he came here to propose her, she asks her father to bring him back.

When Lomov is unconscious, she hysterically repeats, "A doctor! A doctor! He's dead." This reflects her love for Lomov.

OR

Chubukov thought that Lomov was a good marriage prospect for his daughter. He had been waiting for this proposal. When Lomov expressed his doubt regarding Natalya's consent, Chubukov immediately told him that she was in love with him. However, this was not true.

Natalya did not seem to be in love with him at any point in the play. It seemed like she was more attached to her land, meadows and dogs than to Lomov. In fact, the way they kept getting into arguments about trivial matters suggests that neither of them were in love with each other.

3. (i) Find all the words and expressions in the play that the characters use to speak about each other, and the accusations and insults they hurt at each other. (For example, Lomov in the end calls Chubukov an intriguer; but earlier, Chubukov has himself called Lomov a "malicious, double-faced intriguer." Again, Lomov begins by describing Natalya as "an excellent housekeeper, not badlooking, well-educated.")

- Ans.** (1) Lomov for Natalya – an excellent housekeeper, not bad-looking, well-educated.
- (2) Natalya to Lomov – Impudent (giving as gift her own land), a rascal, Monster (first takes our land then has the impudence to abuse us), what sort of a hunter are you? You ought to go and lie on the kitchen oven and catch black beetles and not go after foxes; those hunter argue the most who know the least etc.
- (3) Lomov to Chubukov-not a neighbour but a grabber, old rat, intriguer.
- (4) Chubukov to Lomov-pettifogger, villain, scarecrow, blind hen, turnip ghost, stuffed sausage, malicious, double-faced intriguer, fool, sick, you're under the slipper of your housekeeper etc.
- (ii) Then think of five adjectives or adjectival expressions of your own to describe each character in the play.
- Ans.** (1) Lomov – Weak-hearted bachelor, nervous, short-tempered, quarrelsome, rigid.
- (2) Natalya – Excellent house-keeper, good looking, well-educated, sharp tongued, short tempered, rigid, touchy and sensitive.
- (3) Chubukov – Old, quarrelsome, uses funny abusive language (turnip ghost, stuffed sausage), concerned father.
- (iii) Can you now imagine what these characters will quarrel about next?
- Ans.** Now I can try to imagine that these characters will quarrel next about the quality of champagne.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

- "What are you talking about? Oxen Meadows are ours, not yours!"
 - Who is the speaker here?
 - Who is being referred to by 'yours'?
 - Find a word from the extract which means 'a piece of grassland'.
 - Who is being referred to as ours?

Ans. (a) Natalya is the speaker here.

(b) Lomov is being referred by 'yours'.

(c) Meadows.

(d) 'Ours' is referred to Natalya and her father.
 - CHUBUKOV: We just get along somehow, my angel, thanks to your prayers, and so on. Sit down, please do..Now, you know, you shouldn't forget all about your neighbours, my darling. My dear fellow, why are you so formal in your get-up! Evening dress, gloves, and so on. Can you be going anywhere, my treasure?
- LOMOV: No. I've come only to see you, honoured Stepan Stepanovitch.
- CHUBUKOV: Then why are you in evening dress, my precious? As if you're paying a New Year's Eve visit!
- LOMOV: Well, you see, it's like this (Takes his arm) I've come to you, honoured Stepan Stepanovitch to trouble you with a request. Not once or twice have I already had the privilege of applying to you for help, and you have always, so to speak..I must ask your pardon. I am getting excited. I shall drink some water honoured Stepan Stepanovitch.
- What kind of dress is Lomov wearing?
 - Why is Lomov in a formal dress?

- (c) What does Lomov say about the purpose of his visit?
- (d) Find a word from the passage which means 'special right'.

Ans. (a) Lomov is wearing an evening dress.

- (b) He is in a formal dress as he has come to ask for the hand of Chubukov's daughter.
- (c) He says that he has come to make a special request to Chubukov.
- (d) Privilege.

3. "You may take it that I know whether I have the right or not. Because, young man, I'm not used to being spoken to in that tone of voice, and so on. I, young man, am twice your age, and ask you to speak to me without agitating yourself, and all that."

- (a) Who is the speaker here?
- (b) How did the speaker wanted Lomov to talk to him?
- (c) Find the word from the extract which means 'to disturb, excite or anger someone'.

Ans. (a) Chubukov is the speaker here.

- (b) Chubukov wanted Lomov to speak to him without agitating himself.
- (c) Agitating.

4. "Never mind about my people! The Lomovs have all been honourable people, and not one has ever been tried for embezzlement, like your grandfather!"

- (a) Whom does the speaker say the above lines to?
- (b) How did Lomov describes his people?
- (c) Find the word from the extract which means 'theft of funds'.
- (d) Explain 'Never mind about my People'.

Ans. (a) Lomov (The speaker) said the above lines to Chubukov.

- (b) Lomov described his people as honourable.
- (c) Embezzlement.
- (d) Lomov said this line because his family members.

5. LOMOV: But you can see from the documents, honoured Natalya Stepanovna. Oxen Meadows, it's true, was once the subject of dispute, but now everybody knows that they are mine. There's nothing to argue about. You see my aunt's grandmother gave the free use of these Meadows in perpetuity to the peasants of your father's grandfather, in return for which they were to make bricks for her. The peasants belonging to your father's grandfather had the free use of the Meadows for forty years and had got into the habit of regarding them as their own when it happened that...

NATALYA: No, it isn't at all like that! Both grandfather and great-grandfather reckoned that their land extended to Burnt Marsh-which means that Oxen Meadows were ours. I don't see what there is to argue about. It's simply silly!

- (a) What documents does Lomov offer to show Natalya?
- (b) What for did Lomov's aunt's grandfather give the Oxen Meadows to Natalya's father's grandfather?
- (c) Why does Natalya say that Oxen Meadows are theirs?
- (d) Find a word from the passage which means 'calculated'.

- Ans.** (a) He wants to show her the documents relating to the Oxen Meadows.
 (b) He gave the Meadows in lieu of their making bricks for Lomov's aunt's grandmother.
 (c) She says so because her grandfather and great-grandfather thought that Oxen Meadows extended to Burnt Marsh.
 (d) Reckoned.
- 6.** NATALYA : What proposal?
 CHUBUKOV : Why, he came here to propose to you.
 NATALYA : To propose? To me? Why didn't you tell me so before?
 CHUBUKOV : So he dresses up in evening clothes. The stuffed sausage! The wizen-faced frump!
- (a) Who is being referred to as 'he'?
 (b) Why did he meet Chubukov?
 (c) Find the word from the extract which means 'Make an offer of marriage to someone'.
 (d) Who was dressed in as a stuffed sausage?
- Ans.** (a) Lomov is being referred to as 'he' in the extract.
 (b) Lomov met Chubukov's to ask for Natalya's hand.
 (c) Propose.
 (d) Lomov was dressed as a stuffed sausage.
- 7.** LOMOV: He is old, but I wouldn't take five Squeezers for him. Why, how can you? Guess is a dog; as for Squeezer, well, it's too funny to argue. Anybody you like has a dog as good as Squeezer..you may find them under every bush almost. Twenty-five roubles would be a handsome price to pay for him.
 NATALYA: There's some demon of contradiction in you today, Ivan Vassilevitch. First, you pretend that the Meadows are yours; now, that Guess is better than Squeezer. I don't like people who don't say what they mean, because you know perfectly well that Squeezer is a hundred times better than your silly Guess. Why do you want to say he isn't?
 LOMOV: I see, Natalya Stepanovna, that you consider me either blind or a fool. You must realise that Squeezer is overshot!
- (a) What is funny, according to Lomov?
 (b) What does Natalya say about her own dog?
 (c) How does Lomov interpret Natalya's accusation of him?
 (d) Which Russian currency has been mentioned in these lines?
- Ans.** (a) According to Lomov, it is funny to say that Squeezer is better than Guess.
 (b) She says that her dog is a hundred times better than Lomov's dog.
 (c) He thinks that she considers him either blind or a fool.
 (d) Roubles.
- 8.** "Well, that's a way to start your family bliss! Have some champagne!"
 (a) Who speaks the above lines and on what occasion?
 (b) Name any one conflict they've had before starting the 'family bliss'.
 (c) Who were 'Guess' and 'Squeezer'?
 (d) What were the positive and negative points of Squeezer?
- Ans.** (a) Chubukov speaks these lines on the occasion of Natalya and Lomov's marriage.
 (b) Their conflict over the dogs i.e., Guess and Squeezer.
 (c) Guess was Lomov's dog and Squeezer was Natalya's dog.
 (d) Squeezer was young but was overshot and did not have a strong grip.

9. "Then you make out that I'm a land grabber? Madam, never in my life have I grabbed anybody else's land and I shan't allow anybody to accuse me of having done so. Oxen Meadows are mine!"

- (a) Who is 'Madam' in the above lines?
- (b) In which situation does Lomov call himself a 'land grabber'?
- (c) What had happened to the speaker?
- (d) What will he not allow the other?

Ans. (a) Natalya.

- (b) Natalya accuses Lomov of grabbing Oxen Meadows. So, Lomov says that he is not a land grabber.
- (c) The speaker got infuriated with Natalya for having called him a land grabber.
- (d) He will not allow anybody to accuse him of having grabbed anyone's land.

10. "The peasants used the land for forty years and got accustomed to it as if it was their own.."

- (a) Who speaks this line?
- (b) Who is the speaker speaking to?
- (c) Which land is being referred to?
- (d) Who gave the free use of this land to whom?

Ans. (a) Lomov speaks this line.

- (b) Chubukov.
- (c) Oxen Meadows
- (d) The grandmother of Lomov's aunt gave its free use to the peasants of Chubukov's grandfather.

11. "You see my aunt's grandmother gave the free use of these Meadows in perpetual, peasants of your father's grandfather, in return for which they were to make bricks for her."

- (a) Who is the speaker of these lines?
- (b) What type of relationship has been described in these lines?
- (c) Who is the speaker speaking to?
- (d) What did the peasants do?

Ans. (a) Lomov.

- (b) They had a cordial relationship as they were neighbours.
- (c) Natalya.
- (d) The peasants baked bricks for Lomov's aunt's grandmother.

12. "We just get along somehow, my angel, thanks to your prayers, and so on. Sit down, please do..Now, you know, you shouldn't forget all about your neighbours, my darling. My dear fellow, why are you so formal in your get-up?"

- (a) Who is the speaker?
- (b) 'You shouldn't forget all about your neighbours' - what does the speaker wish to say here?
- (c) Who is the speaker speaking to?
- (d) What did the speaker mean by 'so formal in your get-up' here?

Ans. (a) Chubukov.

- (b) Chubukov wishes to say that they are neighbours and hence should take care of each other.
- (c) Lomov.
- (d) Chubukov wanted to suggest Lomov not to be formal in his get up. This was because, he was in his evening dress, gloves and so on.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. Which qualities are common in all three characters of the play 'The Proposal'?

Ans. All the characters in the play are argumentative, full of pride and possessiveness. They are always ready to argue for petty things.

2. What do you think would have been Chubukov's reaction on hearing the reason for which Lomov had come to his house?

Ans. When Chubukov came to know that the reason of Lomov's coming to their house is to marry Natalya, he was overwhelmed with joy. He embraced and kissed Lomov and told him that he was hoping for it for a long time. He told Lomov that he had always loved him as if he was his own son.

3. Why did Lomov want to get married?

Ans. Lomov wanted to get married as he was already 35 years old. Moreover, he was suffering due to a weak heart and sleep - sickness and wanted company of someone to look after him.

4. What justification did Lomov give to Natalya and Chubukov to prove that he is the rightful owner of Meadows?

Ans. Lomov told Natalya and Chubukov that his aunt's grandmother gave the Meadows for the temporary and free use of Chubukov's grandfather's peasants. So he is the rightful owner of the open meadows.

5. Lomov was a quarrelsome person. Justify.

Ans. Lomov was a quarrelsome person. He came to Chubukov's house to propose Natalya. But he started arguing about the meadows and insisted that those meadows belonged to him. Later he kept on proving that his dog 'Squeezer' is better than 'Guess' - the dog of Chubukov's. He did not care for his health or his proposal but kept on fighting for one or the other reason. It proves that he was a quarrelsome person.

6. Why does Natalya ask her father Chubukov to fetch Lomov in at once? Why does she accuse her father?

Ans. Natalya asked her father to fetch Lomov at once as she had come to know that Lomov had come to propose her. She accused Chubukov of driving Lomov out of their home.

7. How does Natalya react when she comes to know that Lomov had come to propose?

Ans. When Natalya came to know that Lomov had come there to propose her she was shocked. She wails, changes her stance and asks her father to fetch Lomov.

8. Natalya was not Lomov's real love. But still, he wanted to marry her. Give two reasons for his decision.

Ans. Though Lomov was not in love with Natalya, he wanted to marry her because he was suffering due to a weak heart and sleep-sickness. He wanted a companion who could look after him.

9. Natalya calls Lomov a 'land grabber'. Justify the statement.

Ans. Lomov and Natalya argue over the ownership of Oxen Meadows. Natalya calls him a 'land grabber' as he claims his ownership over it. Lomov says that he is not a 'land grabber' as he has never done so and would never let anyone do so.

10. What did Natalya say about Guess?

Ans. Natalya said that Squeezer was superior to Guess - Lomov's dog. Lomov said that his dog Guess was better than Squeezer. Natalya believed that Guess had become old and ought to be shot. She also claimed that Squeezer was a hundred times better than Guess.

12. What does Chubukov at first suspect that Lomov has come for?

Ans. Lomov arrives in a formal evening dress. On seeing him, Chubukov thinks that he has come to borrow money. He decides not to lend it to him but talks to him quite politely.

13. Why does the proposal remain unmade during Lomov's first visit?

Ans. The proposal remains unmade during Lomov's first visit because Lomov is very much nervous and excitable. He beats about the bush. When Natalya comes Lomov begins to quarrel with her about a piece of land. He gets very much excited and leaves the room, cursing and threatening the old man and his daughter, Natalya. He forgets all about the proposal.

14. What is the cause of the second quarrel between Natalya and Lomov?

Ans. Lomov starts praising the qualities of his dog, Guess. But Natalya says that her dog 'Squeezer' which she purchased for 85 roubles is much better than Lomov's dog, Guess. Both of them praise the qualities of their dogs and they start quarrelling on this topic. They again start shouting at each other.

15. How does Lomov behave when he is excited?

Ans. When Lomov is excited, his heart starts palpitating. His right eyebrow starts twitching. His foot goes to sleep. In the play, he becomes so excited that he falls unconscious.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words.

1. Neighbours must have a cordial relationship which Lomov and Natalya do not have. Describe the first fight between them.

Ans. Lomov and Natalya meet and rather than proposing her he gets off the point. He tells her how he inherited his land and how he respects her father. He also tells Natalya that his Oxen meadows touch Natalya's Birchwood. On hearing this, Natalya says that Oxen Meadows are theirs. They start arguing about it. Lomov clarifies that he is talking about the Oxen Meadows that are between her Birchwoods and Burnt Marsh. Natalya again insists that they are theirs.

Lomov refuses it. He tells her that his aunt's grandmother gave those meadows to her father's grand father. The peasants used the land for forty years and started regarding it as their own. Natalya's father comes and also starts quarreling with Lomov. They get into a heated argument and resort to name-calling. After some time, Lomov leaves their house.

2. Why does Lomov think of marrying he should settle into a quiet and regular Natalya Stepanovna?

Ans. Lomov was 35 years old. He was concerned about his marriage. He thought that he ought to lead a quiet and regular life. He wanted to be settled. Moreover, he is not perfectly fit and healthy. He suffers from anxiety, palpitations and strange fear. He wanted company and someone to look after him, so he wanted to get married and hence visited Chubukov. However, Lomov was not in love with Natalya. Besides his ill health, he understood quite well that she was an excellent housekeeper, not bad looking, and well-educated. Thus, he thought of marrying her because of all these practical reasons.

3. Write a brief character sketch of Lomov.

Ans. Lomov is a man who is of marriageable age. He also suffers from a weak heart and sleeplessness. So, he is desperate to settle down in life and lead a quiet and regular life. Despite his ailments, Lomov was a rich and prosperous farmer. This makes Chubukov secretly wish him to marry his daughter Natalya. As for Lomov, he did not love her, though he was desperate to have a life partner, and so marry Natalya. Lomov was however hesitant to ask for her hand from Chubukov. That made him beat around the bush, argue with Natalya and leave without proposing. Thus we can find that Lomov's conditions overpower the other traits he has. He is an eligible, assertive, rich, bachelor, who will be liked by any girl. However, we also know that he is nervous, lacks confidence and is prone to talk in a long-winded manner.

4. Describe how Chubukov got Natalya married with Lomov.

Ans. Chubukov was thinking that Lomov had come to borrow money from him but when he told him that he had come to propose to his daughter he was overjoyed and even shed a tear. He kissed and embraced Lomov. He told Lomov that he was hoping it for a long time. He also told Lomov that he loved him as his own son. In fact, Chubukov, secretly wished Lomov to marry his daughter as he knew that Lomov was a rich and prosperous farmer and his only daughter could lead a comfortable life with him. No wonder, he was overjoyed to know that Lomov was there to propose to his daughter.

5. Describe the incidents of humour in the play, 'The Proposal'?

Ans. 'The Proposal' is certainly a humorous play. The very entry of Lomov in a formal dress and the way Chubukov greets calling him 'darling', 'my treasure' or 'my beauty' makes one laugh. Marriage proposal, supposed to be romantic turns to be humorous as the way Natalya and Lomov indulge in arguments over petty issues like ownership of Oxen Meadows and superiority of dogs makes the play humorous. The critical terms that the characters use for each other like a scarecrow, turnip ghost, blind hen, stuffed sausage, etc., force one to laugh. The hysterical fit of Natalya when she comes to know about the proposal and the wailing of father and daughter when they think Lomov is dead create immense humour. Finally, the way Natalya puts her hand in Lomov's under continuous arguments indicating acceptance of the proposal is really humorous. Thus we see that the whole play is replete with humour, making it a humorous play.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

Answer the following questions.

1. What is the theme of the play 'The Proposal'?
2. What request did Lomov make to Chubukov?
3. What is the ailment that Lomov is suffering from?
4. There is a certain way in which the characters speak in the play "The Proposal". What does it tell us about the Russian men?
5. Did Lomov and Natalya get married ultimately?

FOR ANNE GREGORY

SUMMARY

"For Anne Gregory" is both a sweet and a scathing poem. It is sweet for it makes us privy to the kind of lovely conversation the poet could have with the young girl, Anne Gregory. This is a proof of his intimate relations with the family of Lady Gregory. The compliment that the poet pays Anne at the end of the poem is another reason for calling it a sweet poem. Young women often suffer from insecurities about the way they look, but as the poet assures Anne, if you are a beautiful person on the



William Butler Yeats

inside, then you can never look ugly. However, this poem has a somewhat hidden meaning. Rather, it would be better to say, it reveals certain stereotypes that are not generally noticed. The fact that yellow or blond hair is appealing cannot be denied. However, Anne associates other hair colors or darker hair colors with ugliness. In young adult fiction, red haired women are often considered ugly. Moreover, in all fairy tales, witches are shown to have dark black or brown hair. These notions are put into our heads since childhood or adolescence, and hence, it is difficult not to be influenced by them. That is perhaps why girls with dark hair or red hair always feel that they are ugly in comparison with those having blond hair. Such notions are of course reinforced by men. Men prefer women who are conventionally beautiful rather than those whose beauty is of a different kind. They generally look only at the physical appearance of women and not at what kind of person they are on the inside. They judge women by their looks, and so a girl who isn't pretty but who perhaps has a great personality or some unique talent is not appreciated by her male peers in the same age group.

The poet feels that this is an injustice, and so he tells Anne to beware of men who love her for her yellow hair or for her outward appearance only. He tells her that she should only value a man who loves her for her inner beauty, even if such a man is hard to come by.

STANZAWISE EXPLANATION

"Never shall a young man,

Thrown into despair

By those great honey-coloured

Ramparts at your ear,

Love you for yourself alone

And not your yellow hair."

In these lines, the poet is speaking to a young girl, Anne Gregory. He tells her that her hair is the same color as honey. The way her hair falls over her ear, entirely enveloping it within the strands, makes the poet think of the ramparts one finds surrounding a castle and protecting it against attack from the outside. The poet knows that the sight of her beautiful hair has made many a young man fall in love with her, and also to despair for their overtures are not accepted by her. However, the poet is also sure that all the young men who claim to be in love with her, they love her only for her yellow hair, that is, for her appearance alone. They do not know who she really is, and hence they cannot appreciate her inner beauty. They are enamored of her outer appearance only.

"But I can get a hair-dye
And set such colour there,
Brown, or black, or carrot,
That young men in despair
May love me for myself alone
And not my yellow hair."

In these lines, Anne Gregory gives a response to the poet for his statement that men love only her outward appearance as they are unaware of her inner beauty. She does not say that the poet's point of view is entirely wrong. Instead, she says that if her yellow hair is what men like, she can easily dye it some other color. That is, she can change her physical appearance. She also suggests what color she might dye her hair, and mentions brown, black and carrot as plausible options. These, she feels, are less appealing than blonde as men like women with blonde hair. In other words, she says that she can choose to look ugly if she wants by dying her hair. Perhaps, if she looked ugly then she would get a chance to find out if it is possible for some man to look beyond her physical appearance and love her for the person she is on the inside.

"I heard an old religious man
But yesternight declare
That he had found a text to prove
That only God, my dear,
Could love you for yourself alone
And not your yellow hair."

In these lines, we once again hear the poet speaking. He tells Anne Gregory that the previous night he had come across an old man who was quite religious-minded. This old man had asserted that he had found a manuscript in which it was written that only God will be able to love Anne for her inner beauty more than her physical appearance. In other words, the poet is saying that it is a truth since time immemorial that men cannot easily judge women on anything other than their looks. He is also paying Anne the compliment that she can never look ugly even if she wants to.

NCERT SOLVED QUESTIONS

Thinking About The Poem

1. What does the young man mean by "great honey-coloured/Ramparts at your ear?" Why does he say that young men are "thrown into despair" by them?
Ans. By this the young man means that she has beautiful golden hair which surround the outer wall of her ear. It refers to the girl's beautiful yellow hair which falls till her ears. The hair covers her ears like the high, wide walls which surround a castle. He says that young men are 'thrown into despair' by them because the lady wants them to love her interior and not the exterior. The beauty of the girl's hair is so distracting that the young man just by looking at it, fall in love with her.

2. What colour is the young woman's hair? What does she say she can change it to? Why would she want to do so?

Ans. Honey-coloured or yellow is the young woman's hair. She says she can change it to brown or black or carrot. She would want to do so because the young man in despair may love her for herself alone. She wants to change the colour as the poet told her that young man will love her for her hair, her beauty and not for the person she is. She does not want this to happen. She wants to be loved for her inner beauty and not for physical attributes.

3. Objects have qualities which make them desirable to others. Can you think of some objects (a car, a phone, a dress ...) and say what qualities make one object more desirable than another? Imagine you were trying to sell an object : what qualities would you emphasise?

Ans. Of course, qualities make the objects desirable to others. Qualities of durability, cheapness, modernity, easy-handling, low-maintenance etc. make one object more desirable than another. Suppose I'm selling a dress. I would like to emphasise on its charming colour, simple, sober but attractive design, economic price, durability and so on.

4. What about people? Do we love others because we like their qualities, whether physical or mental? Or is it possible to love someone "for themselves alone"? Are some people 'more lovable' than others? Discuss this question in pairs or in groups, considering points like the following.

- (i) a parent or caregiver's love for a newborn baby, for a mentally or physically challenged child, for a clever child or a prodigy.
- (ii) the public's love for a film star, a sportsperson, a politician, or a social worker.
- (iii) your love for a friend, or brother or sister.
- (iv) your love for a pet, and the pet's love for you.

Ans. About people, I have the opinion that qualities of people like those of objects make them desirable to others. Yes, we love others because we like their qualities, whether physical or mental as public love a film star, a sportsperson, a politician or a social worker.

Yes, it is also possible to love someone 'for themselves alone', as a parent or caregiver's love for a newborn baby, for a mentally or physically challenged child, for a clever child or a prodigy.

Yes, some people are more lovable than others as our love for a friend, or brother or sister or a pet.

5. You have perhaps concluded that people are not objects to be valued for their qualities or riches rather than for themselves. But elsewhere Yeats asks the question: How can we separate the dancer from the dance? Is it possible to separate 'the person himself or herself' from how the person looks, sounds, walks, and so on? Think of how you or a friend or member of your family has changed over the years. Has your relationship also changed? In what way?

Ans. Yes, I have perhaps concluded that people are not objects to be valued for their qualities or riches rather than for themselves.

Yes, Yeats asks elsewhere how we can separate the dancer from the dance.

Yes, it is possible to separate the person himself or herself from the looks, sounds, walks and so on.

I have observed how I or my friends or members of my family have changed over the years. There is much change in the looks, sounds, walks and so on.

Yes, our relationship has also changed. It has changed in many ways. Previously, we had joint families but now we have nucleus families. Now we use our relations for our purposes only. We are more selfish and individualistic.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. "Never shall a young man,

Thrown into despair

By those great honey-coloured

Ramparts at your ear,

Love you for yourself alone

And not your yellow hair."

(a) What does 'ramparts' mean?

(b) What is the colour of Anne's hair?

(c) What does the poet mean by, "love you for yourself alone and not your yellow hair"?

(d) What does 'despair' mean in the stanza?

Ans. (a) 'Ramparts' refers to the wall that protects a fort. Here, it has been used metaphorically to mean the locks of hair around her ear.

(b) Anne's hair are honey-coloured.

(c) He means to say that the young men love Anne for her beautiful looks and not for her beauty inside and the real character she is.

(d) Hopelessness.

2. "But I can get a hair-dye

And set such colour there,

Brown, or black, or carrot,

That young men in despair

May love me for myself alone

And not my yellow hair."

(a) Who is the speaker of these lines?

(b) Why does Anne say that she can change her hair colour?

(c) Which word in the stanza means 'colour'?

(d) What is the rhyming scheme adopted in this stanza?

Ans. (a) The speaker of these lines is Anne Gregory.

(b) Anne says that she can change her hair colour to show that external beauty is not real and permanent.

(c) Dye.

(d) The rhyming scheme adopted in this stanza is abcbdb.

3. "I heard an old religious man

But yesternight declare

That he had found a text to prove

That only God, my dear,

Could love you for yourself alone

And not your yellow hair."

(a) What does the old man's text prove?

(b) What, according to the poet, is more essential in the eyes of God?

(c) What does 'I' refer to here?

(d) How is God's love different from the love of the young lovers?

Ans. (a) That only God could love Anne for herself, for what she really is.

(b) God loves an individual for himself / herself alone.

(c) The Poet.

(d) Young lovers love her hair that represents physical beauty whereas God loves an individual for being himself/herself.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. Between whom does the conversation in the poem take place?

Ans. The poem is a conversation between a speaker, who could be the poet himself, or Anne's lover or friend and Anne Gregory herself. The other speaker believes that young men love Anne for her external beauty but Anne says that external beauty is not real and young men should love her for herself.

2. To whom is the first stanza of the poem addressed? What does the speaker say to her?

Ans. The first stanza of the poem is addressed to a lady named Anne Gregory. She had a great influence on the poet. He had great respect for her. He tells her that although she is a noble lady, yet nobody would love her for herself alone.

3. What does the poet mean by, "those great honey-coloured ramparts at your ear"?

Ans. Ramparts here refer to looks of Anne's beautiful yellow hair and external beauty that hides her soul and true nature and lets other people see only her outer self.

4. What is the colour of the young woman's hair? Why do you think she wants to change it?

Ans. The young woman has yellow hair which she says can be dyed brown, black or carrot. She wishes to change the colour of her hair as she wants someone should love her for her real (inner) beauty and not for her appearance.

5. Why do young men love Anne for her hair and not for herself alone?

Ans. Anne Gregory is so beautiful that no man is capable of ignoring her external beauty and looking inside her real nature. Her attractive external features stop men from knowing the real person. This is what that makes the speaker say that young men love Anne for her hair and not for herself alone.

6. What is the theme of the poem 'For Anne Gregory'?

Ans. The poem conveys the idea that physical beauty may be important for young men or human beings. But God does not love human beings for their physical beauty. For God colours do not matter. God loves all human beings for themselves alone. He does not consider their physical sides. They are superficial things for Him.

7. What has, according to the speaker an old religious man found? Why is only God capable of loving Anne for herself?

Ans. The speaker says that an old religious man has found a text that proves that only God is capable of looking at a person's real self, beyond the external beauty as human beings can't resist external temptations for appearances.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words.

1. Why do you think the other speaker mentioned the old religious man and the text that proves that only God can love Anne for herself alone?

Ans. The speaker mentioned the text found by an old religious man that proves that only God can love Anne for herself alone. It is so because the speaker wanted to tell Anne that her desire that men should not see her outer beauty and love only for herself, is not going to be fulfilled. The speaker tells Anne that only God can be so great as to avoid external beauty and look beyond it. Man, on the other hand, falls for all things that appear pretty from outside and never bothers about what lies inside.

2. The poet in the poem 'For Anne Gregory' conveys that we should give importance to the inner beauty and not the physical appearance. Elaborate with reference to the poem.

Ans. In the conversation that takes place between Anne Gregory and another speaker, the poet has tried to show that inner beauty is real beauty whereas physical appearance is changeable and hence, unimportant. The first speaker says to Anne that young men love her for her beautiful yellow hair and may never love her for what she really is. To this, Anne replies that her hair-colour can be changed into black, brown or carrot, meaning that external beauty is all superficial and men should not love her for that. Through Anne's reply, the poet has made clear his preference for internal beauty over physical appearance.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

Answer the following questions.

1. What does the woman say she can do to make herself more desirable to young men? What does this show?
2. What makes a young man not to love the woman referred to in the first stanza?
3. The young woman's hair is yellow coloured. She is ready to change her hair colour to another colour. Why would she want to do so?
4. What matters for God more to love human beings?
5. How will the young man react to seeing the honey coloured ramparts?

FOUNDATION ENGLISH - 2

LITERATURE (FOOTPRINTS WITHOUT FEET)

THE MAKING OF A SCIENTIST

SUMMARY

Richard H. Ebright published theory of how cells work in an article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science at the age of twenty two. Richard H. Ebright grew up in Reading in Pennsylvania. There he was not able to do anything. He was not able to play football or baseball too. But he said that there he could do one thing - collect things. So he collected things. In Kindergarten, Ebright collected butterflies. He also collected rocks, fossils, and coins. He would observe the sky at night too. He lived with his mother, who encouraged his interest in learning. She would take him on trips, bought him telescopes, microscopes, cameras, mounting materials, and other materials required for learning. He lost his father when he was in third grade. His mother called him Richie. His mother would discuss with him every night and give him mental exercise which he wanted to learn instead of physical exercise. By the time he was in the second grade, Ebright had collected all twenty five species of butterflies found around his home town. Richard said that this would have been the end of his butterfly collection. But his mother gave him a children's book called, 'The Travels of Monarch X'. That book, which told how monarch butterflies migrate to Central America, opened the world of science to Richard. At the end of book, readers were invited to help study butterfly migration. They were asked to tag butterflies for research by Dr. Frederick A. Urquhart of the University of Toronto, Canada. Anyone who found a tagged butterfly was asked to send the tag to Dr Urquhart. If you tried to catch them one by one, you won't catch very much. So Richard rose a flock of butterflies. He would catch a female monarch, take her eggs, and raise them in his basement through their life cycle, from egg to caterpillar to pupa to adult butterfly. Then he would tag the butterflies' wings and let them go. For several years his basement was home to thousands of monarchs in different stages of development. He got a hint of what real science is when he entered a county science fair, and lost. He said that, it was a sad feeling to sit there and not get anything while everybody else had won something. His entry was slides of frog tissues, which he showed under a microscope. He realized that winners had tried to do real experiments. And he decided that for the next year, he has to do something extraordinary than others. So he asked to Dr Urquhart for suggestions and back came a stack of suggestions. For his eighth grade project, Ebright tried to find the cause of a viral disease that kills nearly all monarch caterpillars every few years. Ebright thought the disease might be carried by a beetle. So he rose caterpillars in the presence of beetles. But he didn't get any real result. But he went ahead and showed that he had tried the experiment. The next year his science fair project was testing the theory that viceroy butterflies copy monarchs. The theory was that viceroys look like monarchs because monarchs don't taste good to birds. Viceroys, on the other hand, do taste good to birds. So the more they look like monarchs, the less likely they are to become a bird's dinner. Ebright's project was to see whether, in fact, birds would eat monarchs. He found that a starling would not eat ordinary bird food. It would eat all the monarchs it could get. (Ebright said later research by other people showed that viceroys probably do copy the monarch.) This project was placed first in the zoology division and third overall in the county science fair. In his second year in high school,



Robert W. Peterson



Richard Ebright began the research that led to his discovery of an unknown insect hormone. Indirectly, it also led to his new theory on the life of cells. The question he tried to answer was simple: What is the purpose of the twelve tiny gold spots on a monarch pupa? "Everyone assumed the spots were just ornamental," Ebright said. "But Dr Urquhart didn't believe it." To find the answer, Ebright and another excellent science student first had to build a device that showed that the spots were producing a hormone necessary for the butterfly's full development. This project won Ebright first place in the county fair and entry into the International Science and Engineering Fair. There he won third place for zoology. He also got a chance to work during the summer at the entomology laboratory of the

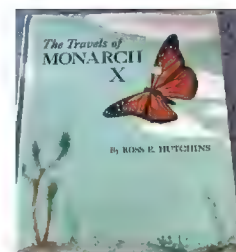
Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. As a high school junior, Richard Ebright continued his advanced experiments on the monarch pupa. That year his project won first place at the International Science Fair and gave him another chance to work in the army laboratory during the summer.

NCERT SOLVED QUESTIONS

Read and Find Out

1. How did a book become a turning point in Richard Ebright's life?

Ans. Richard Ebright was interested in collecting butterflies. By the time Richard Ebright was in the second grade, he had collected all twenty-five species of butterflies found around his hometown. According to him, this would probably have been the end to his butterfly collecting. But at this point his mother got him a book called 'The Travels of Monarch X'. This book told him about the migration of monarch butterflies to Central



America. This book aroused his interest in Monarch butterflies and opened the world of science to him. He began to raise Monarch butterflies in the basement of his home, and study them in different stage of their development. At the end of the book, readers were invited to help study butterfly migrations. He actively participated in tagging butterflies to help in the research being conducted by Dr Frederick A. Urquhart. Thus, it can be said that the book had managed to keep his enthusiasm alive by making him aware of the never-ending possibilities in the world of science.

2. How did his mother help him?

Ans. Richard Ebright's mother helped him by encouraging his interest in learning. She took him on trips, bought him telescopes, microscopes, cameras, mounting materials and other equipments, and helped him in many other ways. If he did not have anything to do, she found things for him to learn. Even the book that became a turning point in his life was given to him by his mother. Hence, it can be said his mother played a crucial role in the making of the scientist.

3. What lesson does Ebright learn when he does not win anything at a science fair?

Ans. When Richard Ebright did not win anything at the science fair, he realized that the winners had tried to conduct real experiments. He, on the other hand, had simply made a neat display. He had shown slides of frog tissues under a microscope. It was the first time that he got a hint of what real science was. This event served to develop the competitive spirit in him. Ultimately, it was this spirit of enthusiasm and competitiveness that drove him to achieve new heights in science.

4. What experiments and projects does he then undertake?

Ans. After losing out at the science fair, Richard Ebright undertook various experiments and projects. For his eighth grade project, he tried finding the cause of a viral disease that killed nearly all monarch caterpillars every few years. He tried raising caterpillars in the presence of beetles as he thought the disease might have been carried by a beetle. He did not get any results. However, he went ahead and showed that he had tried the experiment, and this time he won.

5. What are the qualities that go into the making of a scientist?

Ans. The author mentions three qualities that go into the making of a scientist-a first-rate mind, curiosity, and the will to win for the right reasons. Richard Ebright was a very intelligent student. He was also a champion debater, a public speaker, a good canoeist and an expert photographer. He always gave that extra effort. He was competitive, but for the right reasons. From the first, he had a driving curiosity along with a bright mind, and it was this curiosity that ultimately led him to his theory about cell life.

Think About It

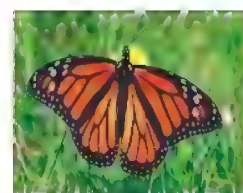
6. How can one become a scientist, an economist, a historian? Does it simply involve reading many books on the subject? Does it involve observing, thinking and doing experiments?

Ans. Reading books is just one aspect of learning. This is an exercise in information gathering. It is how your brain processes the information that affects the degree of learning. The first and the foremost criteria to become a genius in one's chosen field is to have a great curiosity and unending hunger to discover more. Next criteria is a good sense of observation which helps you to correlate your findings with what you see or experience in the real world.

Experiments are just to test your findings against possible variables and in real life situations. And last, but not the least criteria is an urge to work really hard on your area of interest.

7. You must have read about cells and DNA in your science. Discuss Richard Ebright's work in the light of what you have studied. If you get an opportunity to work like Richard Ebright on projects and experiments, which field would you like to work on and why?

Ans. Ebright's work is directly related to Biology. Discovery of cell's structure has helped the scientific community to understand the way any organism functions and grows. This has helped scientists to discover how disease-causing organisms attack us and grow inside our body. This must have given the idea to counter a particular disease. DNA fingerprinting is helping police to pinpoint the real culprit. This was not possible when DNA was discovered. Monarch butterflies present an amazing example of a tiny creature migrating thousands of miles from North America to the rainforest of Amazon. Someday, we can be in a position to develop as sturdy and reliable navigation system as that of the Monarch butterflies.



Monarch Butterfly

Talk About It

9. Children everywhere wonder about the world around them. The questions they ask are the beginning of scientific inquiry. Given below are some questions that children in India have sasked Professor Yash Pal and Dr Rahul Pal as reported in their book, *Discovered Questions*.

(i) What is DNA fingerprinting? What are its uses?

Ans. DNA fingerprinting is a forensic technique used to identify individuals by the characteristics of their DNA. 99.9% of human DNA sequences are same in every human being. But the rest DNA sequences have so much variation that they cannot be same in two individuals; except in monozygotic twins. This variation can be profiles through DNA fingerprinting or DNA profiling.

Uses of DNA Fingerprinting:

- (a) In establishing the parentage of a person.
- (b) In identifying a criminal.
- (c) In identifying a dead person if the dead body is damaged beyond recognition.

(ii) How do honeybees identify their own honeycombs?

Ans. Honeybees have signalling chemicals; like many other insects. They leave trails for fellow honeybees so that they can reach a source of nectar or honeycomb. Honeybees also communicate through complex dance patterns to show the distance and direction of a flower or of honeycomb. It is believed that they take the help of location of the sun to find their direction.

(iii) Why does rain fall in drops?

Ans. We know that rain is formed because of condensation. Soon after condensation, the water vapour turns into tiny ice crystals. Since all of the vapour in atmosphere does not condense at once, hence there is no possibility of formation of a large pool of water. The tiny ice crystals further melt into water when they travel down. Thus, rain falls in drops. Sometimes, when the size of ice crystals is large or condensation is too fast, we experience hailstorms instead of rains.

10. You also must have wondered about certain things around you. Share these questions with your class, and try and answer them.

Ans. Yes, I have wondered about some certain things around me. Those questions and their answers are as following-

(i) Why does sky appear to be blue?

Ans. Our earth is surrounded by a blanket of air called the atmosphere. Sun is the main source of light for the earth. When the sunlight passes through the atmosphere, it is scattered by the dust particles, water and air molecules in all directions. The sunlight is composed of seven colours which are violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange and red. When the sun rays pass through the atmospheric molecules, the violet, indigo and blue colours get reflected the most. When we look at the sky, the light which enters our eyes mainly consists of violet, indigo and blue colour. The mixture of these three colours is almost blue. So the sky appears blue.

(ii) Why does blood group vary from person to person?

Ans. Our blood is mainly composed of red blood corpuscles, white blood corpuscles, platelets and plasma. Microscopic investigations reveal that molecules of antigen found on the surface of red blood corpuscles are different in different people. This difference in the antigen gives rise to different groups of blood.

(iii) Spiders don't get caught in their own webs. Why?

Ans. The spider does not get caught in its web because a kind of oil is secreted on its legs. When the spider moves across the web, it is careful to avoid touching the sticky threads with its legs. If sometimes it does so, the oily secretion on its legs prevents it from getting caught in the web.

Note : Questions and Answers for this question may vary.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the extracts and answer the questions that follow.

1. So he wrote to Dr. Urquhart for ideas, and back came a stack of suggestions for experiments. Those kept Ebright busy all through high school and led to prize projects in the county and international science fairs.

- What was Dr. Urquhart's response?
- What happened when Ebright acted up the ideas?
- Why did Ebright write to Dr. Urquhart?
- What initiated Ebright in the field at 'scientific research'?

Ans. (a) Dr. Urquhart responded with a stack of suggestions for experiments.
 (b) Ebright was kept busy all through high school by the ideas and was led to prize projects in the county and international science fairs.
 (c) He wrote for scientific ideas.
 (d) Dr. A. Urquhart had invited his readers to help him study the migration of monarch butterflies; Ebright started tagging the butterflies and thus started his first step in this field.

2. Eventually, I began to lose interest in tagging butterflies. It's tedious and there's not much feedback, Ebright said. "In all the time I did it", he laughed, "only two butterflies I had tagged were recaptured-and they were not more than seventy-five miles from where I lived."

- Why did Ebright lose interest?
- Explain the phrase, 'they were not seventy-five miles'.
- Who was Richard Ebright?
- What theory was given by him to the scientific world?

Ans. (a) Ebright lost interest because it was a tedious job with less feedback.
 (b) The phrase is used ironically as Ebright had read about the migration of butterflies to central America and here they did not go far beyond seventy-five miles.
 (c) He was a great scientist.
 (d) He gave his new theory about cell life.

3. Ebright has these qualities. From the time the book, 'The Travels of Monarch X' opened the world of science to him, Richard Ebright has never lost his scientific curiosity.
- Which qualities does Ebright have?
 - Who gave him 'The Travels of Monarch X'?
 - How did a book become a turning point in Albright's life?
 - How did Ebright come in contact with Dr Urquhart?

- Ans.**
- Ebright was competitive with a first-rate mind, added with curiosity, mixed with the will to win for the right reason.
 - His mother gave him the book.
 - Due to the book, 'The Travels of Monarch X', he could communicate with Dr. Urquhart who guided and motivated him to initiate scientific research on butterflies.
 - This happened through the book, 'The Travels of' Monarch X'.

4. Beginning in kindergarten, Ebright collected butterflies with the same determination that has marked all his activities. He also collected rocks, fossils and coins. He became an eager astronomer, too, sometimes star-gazing all night.
- What was Ebright's beginning in kindergarten?
 - What was Ebright's approach towards the activity?
 - What did Ebright like to do as a child?
 - Do you think Ebright became an eager astronomer too?

- Ans.**
- In the beginning of kindergarten, he used to collect butterflies, rocks.
 - His approach towards the activity was one of determination.
 - He was interested in collecting new rocks, fossils and coins.
 - Yes, sometimes, he gazed at the stars throughout the night.



Viceroy Butterfly

5. If the theory proves correct, it will be a big step towards understanding the processes of life.
- What is the theory about?
 - Who proposed the theory?
 - Which part of speech is 'life' as used in the given extract?
 - Give a synonym of 'correct'.

- Ans.**
- The theory is about how cells read their DNA.
 - The theory was proposed by Richard Ebright and his friend James R. Wong.
 - It is used as a noun.
 - Right.

6. So he did, and did he ever! Beginning in kindergarten, Ebright collected butterflies with same determination that has marked all his activities.
- What does 'he did' in the extract refer to?
 - What else did he collect other than butterflies?
 - Find a word from the extract which means 'resoluteness'.
 - Give an opposite of 'beginning'?

- Ans.**
- 'He did' refers to Richard's habit of collecting various things.
 - He collected fossils, coins and rocks other than butterflies.
 - Determination.
 - Ending.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. Which project did Ebright submit in his eighth grade? Why did he win?

Ans. For his eighth grade project, he tried to find the cause of a viral disease that killed all monarch caterpillars every few years. He thought it all happened because of a beetle and tried raising caterpillars in the presence of beetles but he did not get any results. But he went ahead and showed his experiments and trials and won a prize.

2. 'Richard was the focus of his mother's attention'. Discuss.

Ans. Richard was three years old when he lost his father. Then he became the whole life of his mother. His mother was his only companion. At night they just did the things together. His mother encouraged his interest in learning. She took him on trips, bought telescopes, microscopes, cameras and other equipments that helped him in many other ways. She brought him the book 'The Travels of Monarch X'. This opened the world of science to the eager young collector.

3. What made him a straight 'A' grade student in high school?

Ans. Ebright was a champion debater, public speaker and a good canoeist and an all around outdoor person. He was an expert photographer of nature and scientific exhibits & had won many prizes in science fairs at the county level. He proved a lot of things about butterflies. He had already read the blue print of DNA. All these made him a straight A grade student in high school.

4. Identify four values which Richard Ebright projected as a man of substance.

Ans. Ebright was not only a good scientist but also a keen observer. He was a champion debater and a public speaker and a good canoeist and an all around outdoor person. He was an expert photographer, particularly of nature and scientific exhibits.

5. Which project of Ebright won first prize in the county science fair?

Ans. Ebright didn't win anything at his first science fair, thereby realizing that actual experiments alone worked. Later, he started winning prizes. Ebright with his scientist friend first built a device that showed that the tiny gold spots on a monarch pupa were producing a hormone necessary for the butterfly's full development. This project won them first prize in the county science fair and third prize in zoology in the International Science Fair.

6. What all hobbies did Ebright develop in kindergarten?

Ans. As a child, Ebright had a driving curiosity. He was interested in learning new things. He was good in studies and earned top grades in the class. He also collected rocks, fossils and coins. He became an eager astronomer too.

7. How did Richard's mother help him to become a scientist?

Ans. Ebright had a driving curiosity and a bright brain - essential ingredients for becoming a scientist. His mother encouraged him to learn more. She exposed him to the world around him by taking him to trips, bought him books, telescopes, microscopes, cameras, mounting materials and other equipment, which helped him in his learning.

8. Why did Richard Ebright tag a flock of butterflies?

Ans. Once Ebright's mother bought him a book, 'The Travels of Monarch X'. At the end of the book, the writer Dr A. Urquhart, had invited the readers to help him in the study of butterfly migration by tagging them. So he started tagging the butterflies.

9. Describe Richard Ebright's childhood.

Ans. Ebright grew up north of Reading, Pennsylvania. He was the only child of his parents. His father died when he was in third grade. As a child, he was good in studies and also collected rocks, fossils and coins.

10. Mention any two of Ebright's contributions to the world of science.

Ans. He carried experiments to prove successfully that hormone produced by the gold spots of a pupa is responsible for the growth and formation of butterfly-wings. He also discovered how a cell could read the blueprint of its DNA that controls heredity.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words.

1. 'Success is failure turned inside out'. Prove the above statement with instances from the journey taken by Richard Ebright from losing at the science fair to winning at the international fair.

Ans. Success is the fruit of failure. It never comes straight but through failure. This can be seen in the life of Richard Ebright. Although he earned top grades in school, on everyday things he was just like every other kid. He faced many failures in his life but every failure strengthened his will to succeed. When he was in seventh grade, he participated in County Science Fair with his slides of frog tissues. But he could not win a prize. This made him determined to win the prize and in his eighth grade he again participated



Richard Ebright

in the science fair with the experiment of viral disease in monarch caterpillars and won the prize. The very next year he participated with his experiment of whether viceroy butterflies copy the monarch butterflies in order to save their life from the birds and this project won Ebright, third prize in overall county science fair.

His experiment regarding gold spots of monarch for which he built a device that showed that the spots produced hormones necessary for the full development of butterflies won third prize in international science and engineering fair.

Next year his advanced experiments on the monarch pupa won him first place at the international science fair. Thus, for Richard Ebright, we can say that success is failure turned inside out.

2. How does Richard Albright become a scientist?

Ans. Richard Ebright had been a curious child even when he was in kindergarten. His curiosity prompted him to collect rocks, fossils, coins and butterflies. His mother's encouragement and his bright mind also contributed to making him a success. His mother got him all that he needed to develop his scientific bent of mind. His response to Dr Fredrick A. Urquhart to collect butterflies for his research gave him an opportunity in his endeavours. Then in the seventh grade, he got a hint of what real science is when he entered a country science fair and lost. He realized that winners had tried to do real experiments, not simply make a neat display. Thereafter, Ebright worked sincerely on every science project he got every year in school. Then he stood first in a county fair that gave him entry into International Science and Engineering Fair where he won the third place. He then went on to win the highest honours and graduated from Harvard. His high school research into the purpose of the spots on a monarch pupa eventually led him to his theory about cell life. Thus, he became a renowned scientist.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

1. Read the extracts and answer the questions that follow:

A. 'By the time he was in second grade, Ebright had collected all twenty-five species of butterflies found around his hometown!'

- How many species of butterflies had Ebright collected?
- Who is the person who kept Ebright engaged in learning things?
- Who is the speaker talking about?
- How did Ebright's mother help him?

- B.** 'So the more they look like monarchs, the less likely they are to become a bird's dinner.'
- (a) Who are 'they' referred to here?
 - (b) Why are they less likely to become a bird's dinner?
 - (c) What was the objective of Ebright's science fair project?
 - (d) Why do you think a visit to a science fair helped Richard to become a great scientist?
- C.** 'He would catch a female monarch, take her eggs, and raise them in his basement through their life cycle'.
- (a) Who is 'he' in this extract?
 - (b) Why does he raise butterflies?
 - (c) Find a synonym for the word 'rear' from the extract given above.

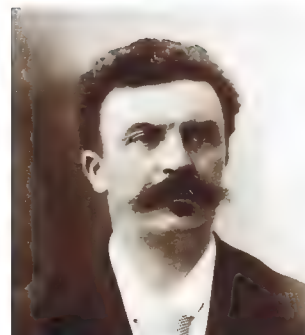
Answer the following questions.

- 2.** Comment on the role of Mr Weiherer in Ebright's life.
 - 3.** Why did Ebright lose interest in tagging butterflies?
 - 4.** "Science shows a connection between structure and function." Discuss in reference to the spots Ebright saw on Monarch pupas.
 - 5.** How can Ebright's theory of cell life be a revolution in the medical field if it is proved correct?
 - 6.** What results are expected if Richard Ebright's theory is proved correct?
 - 7.** Ebright's backbone was his mother. How did she contribute towards his learning? What kind of work did she find for him even at the dining table? What values did Ebright imbibe from his mother?
-

THE NECKLACE

SUMMARY

The short story "The Necklace" by Guy De Maupassant takes place in France several hundred years ago. Mathilde Loisel, a middle-class girl, desperately wishes she were wealthy. She's got looks and charm, but had the bad luck to be born into a family of clerks, who marry her to another clerk (M. Loisel) working in the Department of Education. Mathilde is so convinced she's meant to be rich that she detests her real life and spends all day dreaming and despairing about the fabulous life she's not having. She envisions footmen, feasts, fancy furniture. While her husband expresses his pleasure at the small, modest supper she has prepared for him. She dreams of an elaborate feast served in fancy china and eaten in the company of wealthy friends. She possesses no fancy jewels or clothing, yet these are the only things she lives for. Without them, she feels she is not desirable. She has one wealthy friend, Madame Forestier, but refuses to visit her because of the heartbreak it brings her.



Guy De Maupassant

One night, her husband returns home proudly bearing an invitation to a formal party hosted by the Ministry of Education. M. Loisel went through a lot of trouble to get this invitation hoping that Mathilde will get thrilled knowing of getting this chance to attend an event of this sort, but Mathilde's first reaction is to throw a fit. On knowing about the invitation, she instantly gets angry and begins to cry. Through her tears, she tells him that she has nothing to wear for such a party and he ought to give the invitation to one of his friends whose wife can afford better clothing than hers. Her husband gets upset by her reaction and asks how much a suitable dress would cost. She thinks about it carefully and tells him that 400 francs would be enough. Her husband quietly balks at the sum but agrees that she may have the money.

As the day of the party approaches, Mathilde starts to behave oddly. She confesses that the reason for her behavior is her lack of jewels to wear with the dress. Monsieur Loisel suggests that she could wear flowers, to which she refuses. He implores her to visit Madame Forestier and borrow something from her. Madame Forestier agrees to lend Mathilde her jewels, and Mathilde selects a diamond necklace. She is overcome with gratitude at Madame Forestier's generosity.

The night of the ball arrives, and Mathilde has the time of her life. At the party, Mathilde being the most beautiful woman amongst all present, everyone notices her. Everyone's attention and love makes her absolutely thrilled. She is intoxicated by the attention and is overwhelmed with a sense of self-satisfaction. At 4 a.m., she finally looks for Monsieur Loisel, who has been dozing for hours in a deserted room. He cloaks her bare shoulders in a wrap and cautions her to wait inside, away from the cold night air, while he fetches a cab. But she is ashamed at the shabbiness of her wrap and follows Monsieur Loisel outside. They walk for a while before hailing a cab and head home.

Mathilde is saddened that the night has ended, after they return home. As she removes her wrap, she discovers that her necklace is no longer around her neck. In a panic, Monsieur Loisel goes outside and retraces their steps. Terrified, she sits and waits for him. He returns home much later in an even greater panic. He could not find the necklace anywhere. He instructs her to write to Madame Forestier and say that she has broken the clasp of the necklace and will return it after getting it mended.

They continue to look for the necklace. M. Loisel spends all of the next day, and even the next week, searching the city for the necklace, but finds nothing. After a week, Monsieur Loisel says they have to see about replacing it. So he and Mathilde think and decide that they have no choice but to buy Madame Forestier a new necklace. They visit one jewellery store after another until at last they find a necklace that looks just the same as the one they lost. Unfortunately, it's for 36 thousand francs, which is exactly twice the amount of all the money M. Loisel has to his name. So M. Loisel goes massively into debt and buys the necklace, and Mathilde returns it to Madame Forestier, who doesn't notice the substitution. Buying the necklace catapults the Loiseles into poverty for the next ten years. They lose their house, their maid, their comfortable lifestyle, and on top of it, Mathilde loses her good looks. It takes them ten years for all the debts to be finally paid.

One Sunday, while she is out for a walk, Mathilde spots Madame Forestier, rich and beautiful as ever. Feeling emotional, she approaches her and offers greetings. Madame Forestier does not recognize her, and when Mathilde identifies herself, Madame Forestier could not help but exclaims that she looked completely different. Mathilde says that the change was on her account and explains to her the long saga of losing the necklace, replacing it, and working for ten years to repay the debts. At the end of her story, Madame Forestier clasps her hands and tells Mathilde that the necklace she had lost was just a fake one. Its worth was only five hundred francs.

NCERT SOLVED QUESTIONS

Read and Find Out

1. What kind of a person is Madame Loisel — why is she always unhappy?

Ans. Madame Loisel was a pretty, young lady, born as if through an error of destiny, into a family of clerks. She had no dowry, no hopes, no means of becoming known, loved, and married by a man either rich or distinguished. She allowed herself to marry a petty clerk in the office of the Board of Education. She was simple, but she was always unhappy and suffered incessantly because she felt that she had been born for all the delicacies and luxuries and not to lead a simple life. She suffered from the poverty of her apartment, the shabby walls and the worn chairs. All these things tortured and angered her. At dinner while her husband genuinely appreciated the food served she would only think of elegant dinners, of shining silver and of the exquisite food served in marvellous dishes. She had neither frocks nor jewels, nothing and yet she loved only those things. She had a rich friend, whom she did not like to visit simply because she suffered so much when she returned and wept for whole days from despair and disappointment.

2. What kind of a person is her husband?

Ans. Her husband was a clerk in the office of the Board of Education. Unlike Madame Loisel, he was content with his life. While Madame Loisel used to suffer thinking about luxuries and delicacies, he could derive great sense of satisfaction even from a humble 'potpie'. He was also a loving husband, as is seen from his behavior towards his wife. He readily parted with the four hundred francs that he had saved to buy a gun, so that Madame Loisel would be able to wear a nice dress to the Minister's ball. This shows that his wife's happiness was more important to him.

3. What fresh problem now disturbs Madame Loisel?

Ans. The fresh problem that now disturbed Madame Loisel is that although she had a pretty dress for the ball she was still vexed as she did not have a jewel to wear with it. Since she had nothing to adorn herself with she was worried that she would have a poverty stricken look and so preferred not to go to the party. Her husband tried to solve her problem by suggesting she wear some natural flowers as they looked chic in that season but she refused saying that there was nothing more humiliating than to have a shabby air in the midst of rich women.

4. How is the problem solved?

Ans. Madame Loisel's husband solved this problem. He told his wife to request her friend, Madame Forestier to lend her some jewels. The next day she visited her friend and related her story of distress. Madame Forestier showed her the jewel-case, and told her to take what she liked. At first she could not make up her mind but finally she looked into a black satin box, and found a superb necklace of diamonds which she decided to borrow.



5. What do M. and Madame Loisel do when they came to know that Matilda had lost Madame Forestier's necklace?

Ans. When Madame Loisel returned from the ball she found Madame Forestier's necklace was not around her neck. The couple looked in the folds of the dress, in the folds of the cloak, in the pockets, everywhere but they could not find it. They tried to recall where she could have lost it on the street or in the cab but they did not have the cab number. Loisel decided to go over the track where they had walked on foot, but still did not find it. He then went to the police and to the cab offices, and put an advertisement in the newspapers, offering a reward. To gain some time in the search for the necklace, he asked his wife to write to her friend and state that she had broken the clasp of the necklace and that she would soon have it repaired. Finally at the end of a week, they had lost all hope and decided to replace the necklace.

6. How do they replace the necklace?

Ans. Loisel asked Matilda to write a letter to Madame Forestier, explaining that she had broken the clasp of the necklace and would get it repaired. In a shop of the Palais-Royal, M and Madame Loisel found a chaplet of diamonds, which seemed to them exactly like the one she had lost. It was valued at forty thousand francs. They could get it for thirty-six thousand. Loisel possessed eighteen thousand francs, which his father had left him. He borrowed the rest. He made ruinous promises, took money from usurers and the whole race of lenders. Then he went to get the new necklace, depositing on the merchant's counter thirty-six thousand francs. Finally, he bought the necklace and gave it to Matilda for her to take it back to Madame Forestier.

Think About It

7. The course of the Loisels' life changed due to the necklace. Comment.

Ans. The course of the Loisels' life changed due to the necklace because once Matilda had replaced the necklace, she had to pay back all the money she had borrowed to purchase the new one. They sent away the maid, they changed their lodgings; they rented some rooms in an attic. Matilda learned the odious work of a kitchen. She washed the dishes. She washed the soiled linen, their clothes and dish cloths, which she hung on the line to dry; she took down the refuse to the street each morning and brought up the water, she went to the grocer's, the butcher's and the fruiterer's, with her basket on her arm, shopping, haggling to the last sou of her miserable money all this clothed like a woman of the people. Her husband worked evenings, putting the books of some merchants in order. At night, he did copying at five sous a page. This lasted for ten years, and at the end of the said period, they were able to repay their lenders.

8. What was the cause of Matilda's ruin? How could she have avoided it?

Ans. The cause of Matilda's ruin was her longing for a good life. She suffered from the poverty of her apartment, the shabby walls and the worn chairs. All these things tortured and angered her. She was always dissatisfied, always unhappy, always craving for all the delicacies and luxuries of life. She could have avoided it by accepting her fate and like her husband, been happy, contented, satisfied and lived the life she was destined to live. Had she lived in this way, she would not have had to borrow the necklace which changed the course of their lives.

9. What would have happened to Matilda if she had confessed to her friend that she had lost her necklace?

Ans. Truth and honesty would have saved Matilda from her doom. If only she had been courageous enough to confess to her friend the truth of the necklace, she would have come to know that it was a fake one that cost a mere five hundred francs.

Although her friend might have been upset or even angry with her in the beginning, eventually she would have forgiven her. She may have asked her to replace the jewels and told her from where she had purchased them. In that case Matilda would have found out that they were not real diamonds and she would have had to pay much less to replace them.

She would not have spent her husband's entire inheritance and borrowed eighteen thousand francs to pay for its replacement. In fact, she would have saved herself and her husband from ten long years of crushing poverty, misery and back breaking labour.

10. If you were caught in a situation like this, how would you have dealt with it?

Ans. Foremost of all, I would have done my best not to become a victim of my own pride and aspirations. If, I was caught in such a situation, I would have let the truth out and then face the consequences. Honesty would have been the way out for me. I would have gone straight to my friend and confessed to her the loss of the necklace. Although she would have been angry with me in the beginning, being a true friend she would have eventually forgiven me. If she was truly very upset with me because she liked the necklace a lot, I would have offered to replace it. Had I then visited the store where she had bought the necklace, I would have realised that they were not real diamonds and in this way I would not have suffered the way she did. (Answers may vary)

Talk About It

11. The characters in this story speak in English. Do you think this is their language? What clues are there in the story about the language its characters must be speaking in?

Ans. Though the characters speak in English, it is not their language. Maupassant wrote the story in French and it was translated into English. Again the very text throws up enough words in French to prove it otherwise. First, the very names of characters like Madame Loisel, Madame Forestier and the minister's name George Ramponneau indicate their French origin. Then, the words for currency like 'Franc' and 'Sou' show the same. Also, the shop's location at 'Palais Royal' and 'Champs Elysees' point out the French history of the characters and the story.

12. Honesty is the best Policy.

Ans. Honesty is definitely the best policy. Falsehood and hypocrisy seem very attractive and rewarding at first. But, the path they tread on leads to nothing but misery, evil and utter gloom. Honesty, on the contrary, seems to be a difficult choice in pursuit of material happiness. However, it is the only choice for a life of contentment, peace and everlasting happiness.

13. We should be content with what life gives us.

Ans. Life is a great mystery. For every individual this mystery of life comes wrapped in a unique package. For some, it is all riches, comfort, name and fame. For some, it is nothing but sheer hunger, poverty, anguish and an everyday quest for bare survival. One, however, must learn to live within one's means and be content with what one has. One may try to improve his lot by honest means but eventually must be at peace with what one manages to have.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS
EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. One evening her husband returned elated bearing in his hand a large envelope. 'Here', he said, "Here is something for you."
 (a) Why was the husband elated?
 (b) What was the reaction from 'you'?
 (c) Find the word from the extract that means the same as 'wrapper'.
 (d) Give an antonym of 'elated'?

Ans. (a) The husband was elated as he brought home an invite to the Minister's residence. He knew it would make his wife happy.
 (b) 'You' or his wife, unexpectedly, was not at all happy and she made her displeasure very obvious.
 (c) Envelope.
 (d) Sad.

2. He threw around her shoulders that modest wraps they had carried whose poverty clashed with the elegance of the ball costume. She wished to hurry away in order not to be noticed by the other women who were wrapping themselves in rich furs.
 (a) What precedes these lines?
 (b) 'She' wished to hurry away. Why?
 (c) Find a word from the given extract which is a synonym of 'not expensive'.
 (d) Give an opposite of 'poverty'?

Ans. (a) These lines follow Matilda's success at the ball where she was idolised. Her beauty and elegance was praised by everyone.
 (b) She, 'Matilda' did not wish to shatter the illusion of her grandeur that she had so successfully managed to convey to others by putting on such a shabby wrap. So, she wished to hurry away to escape being noticed by the rich women there.
 (c) Modest.
 (d) Affluence.

3. Madame Forestier was touched and took both her hands as she replied, "Oh! My poor Matilda! Mine were false. They were not worth over five hundred francs!"
 (a) Why was Madame Forestier touched?
 (b) "Mine were false." What does 'mine' refer to in these lines?
 (c) Find the word from the extract that is similar in meaning 'to get affected'.
 (d) What is the opposite of 'poor'?

Ans. (a) Madame Forestier was touched by Matilda's plight which could have been avoided if only Matilda had told her the truth.
 (b) 'Mine' refers to the diamond necklace that Madame Forestier had lent to Matilda.
 (c) Touched.
 (d) Rich.

4. He went to the police and to the cab offices, and put an advertisement in the newspapers, offering a reward.

She waited all day in a state of bewilderment before this frightful disaster. Loisle returned in the evening, his face pale; he had discovered nothing.

- (a) What did he do?
- (b) For what did he offer a reward?
- (c) What was the cause of Matilda's ruin?
- (d) How could she have avoided it?

- Ans.** (a) He went to the police and to the cab office and put an advertisement in the newspapers.
(b) To find the lost necklace, he offered a reward.
(c) Matilda's weakness for admiration, pleasure and vanity became the cause of her ruin.
(d) Matilda could have avoided this entire suffering if she had tried to live within her means and controlled her wild desires for short-lived pleasures.

6. And she responded, "I am vexed not to have a jewel, nothing to adorn myself with. I shall have such a poverty-stricken look. I would prefer not to go to this party." He replied, "You can wear some natural flowers. In this season they look very chic."

- (a) Why was she vexed then?
- (b) Which party is she referring to?
- (c) Who is 'she' in the above lines?
- (d) Why did she not want to go to the party?

- Ans.** (a) She was vexed because she did not have any jewel to adorn herself with.
(b) She is referring to the party hosted by 'The Minister of Public Instruction' for which her husband got an invitation.
(c) Matilda.
(d) She was grieved for her poverty-stricken look. She felt that she did not have a proper party dress and a jewels to wear.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. What would Matilda often dream of?

- Ans.** Matilda would often dream of all the delicacies, luxuries, elegant dinners, marvellous dishes, rich silver, beautiful dresses, jewels, adoration and a life of glory. She would escape into her dreams from the dullness of her very humble existence.

2. Why did Matilda throw the invitation card spitefully upon the table?

- Ans.** One evening, Matilda's husband returned home carrying in his hand a large envelope. She drew out a printed card quickly, but threw it on the table spitefully. It was an invitation for a ball arranged by the Minister of Public Instruction. She complained that she didn't have a suitable dress for that grand occasion. She asked him to give that invitation to some colleague whose wife was better fitted out than her.

3. What excuse did Loiseles put up to explain the delay in returning the necklace?

Ans. Loiseles had lost the necklace and needed time to find an identical one. Thus, Loiseles wrote a letter to Madame Forestier with an excuse that the clasp of the necklace was broken and they needed time to get it repaired.

4. How did Mr. Loisel meet the demand of a suitable costume for his wife for going to the ball?

Ans. Matilda refused to go to the ball without having a suitable costume for the occasion. Her husband asked her to wear the dress that she wore while going to the theatre. When Matilda reacted strongly, he asked how much a suitable costume would cost. She replied that it would cost 400 francs. Mr. Loisel turned pale. He had saved 400 francs to buy a gun for him to shoot larks. But he bowed down and agreed to give 400 francs to have a pretty dress.

5. What made Matilda a grand success at the ball?

Ans. It was a great test for Matilda to present herself at the ball. And she was a grand success there. She was the prettiest of them all. She was elegant, graceful and full of joy. She danced with enthusiasm. All the men noticed such a wonderful lady, asked her name and wanted to be introduced to her.



6. Why did Madame Loisel leave the ball in hurry? What does it show about her character?

Ans. Madame Loisel left the ball in a hurry because her husband threw the modest wraps around her shoulders, whose poverty clashed with the elegance of the ball costume. She did not want to be noticed by the other women who were wrapping themselves in rich furs. It shows the hypocrisy and showoff life of Madame Loisel. It shows her dissatisfaction, anger and frustration with life.

7. How was Mr Loisel able to arrange 36,000 francs to replace the necklace?

Ans. Loisel possessed eighteen thousand francs, which his father had left for him. Rest of the money he borrowed from usurers and a whole race of lenders. He made ruinous promises for that. And to repay this debt they had to change their lodgings. Madame Loisel had to do all tedious jobs like washing, grocery shopping, and carrying water upstairs herself.

8. What changes occurred in Madame Loisel after 10 years?

Ans. Madame Loisel now knows the horrible life of necessity. She sent away her maid and learned the odious work of a kitchen. She washed the dishes and the clothes on her own. She took down wastes to the street and brought up the water, stopping at each landing to breathe. They changed their lodging and rented some rooms in the attic.

She seemed old now and became a strong and hard women. Her hair badly dressed, her skirts awry, her hands red and the spoke in a loud voice.

9. What, do you think, were the feelings of Madame Forestier when she came to know that Matilda returned her a diamond necklace in place of an artificial one?

Ans. Matilda borrowed a necklace from Madame Forestier to wear at a party. She lost it somewhere and in that place returned a diamond necklace to her. She was unaware of the fact that it was an artificial one. Madame Forestier was shocked to know the whole story. Madame Forestier thought that situation could be avoided if Matilda had the dare to accept the truth and share it with Madame Forestier.

10. Comment on the use of irony in the text.

Ans. The irony in the story is based on the fact that the Loisels spend 10 years of toil and frugality paying for a necklace which turns out to be a cheap imitation.

11. How had Madame Loisel's sacrifices all been in vain?

Ans. Madame Loisel's sacrifices proved to be all in vain as Mrs Forestier, when she met her after ten years, told her that the necklace was of fake diamonds and was worth only 500 francs. Poor Loisel had wasted their 10 years to repay the loss of a fake necklace.

12. How did Madame Loisel now know the life of necessity?

Ans. To pay the debt of eighteen thousand francs, Loisels let go of their decent living. They lived in impoverished neighbourhood. Matilda had to cook, clean, wash, mend, bring water and bargain with the butcher and grocer. Her husband worked day and night to save every sou.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words.

1. Madame Loisel's disposition invites her doom. Comment in the context of the text you've read.

OR

What kind of person is Matilda Loisel? Support your answer giving examples from the story "The Necklace".

Ans. Madame Loisel belongs to a family of clerks. Her existence is quite average. They live on meagre income, enough for basic needs but not to fulfil aspirations. She gets married to a clerk and is so caught up with her dreams of wealth and pleasure that she is out of touch with the truths of her real life. In order to keep up appearances just to flatter her pride, she blows up four hundred francs on a gorgeous dress. And, not contented, she goes on borrowing a necklace from her friend. And, all of this is just to impress the wealthy and the rich with her beauty and glamour (even if on loan). No doubt, her pride is flattered and her wish of fine dining, expensive dresses and jewels is satisfied but at a great price. Unfortunately, the necklace is lost and the couple has to cough up their entire inheritance and borrow as well to replace it. Repayment of the debt eats away the next ten years of their youth. They live poor. All the house hold chores and cares of a life of poverty visit them. Hence, her disposition invites her doom.

2. Madame Forestier proved to be a true friend. Elucidate.

Ans. Madame Forestier turns out to be an interesting character. She plays a very vital role in the story. As a friend to Matilda, we find her to be really genuine as she helps Matilda in the hour of her need. When Madame Loisel needs to borrow jewels, she turns to Madame Forestier. Madame Forestier does not refuse. Displaying her generosity, she opens up the entire array of her jewels for Matilda to choose from. Also, she is considerate when Loisels delay the return of the necklace. Surprisingly, at the end of the story, she concludes the entire narrative.

Without even a moment's hesitation, she reveals to Matilda that her necklace was just a fake. She is not at all worried in the light of the fact that she may have to return the necklace. It shows her honesty. Rather, she, like a true friend, feels bad for Matilda at her unnecessary suffering. We find her sympathising with Madame Loisel. She is indeed a gem of a friend.

3. Matilda realized that one little act of negligence can lead to total ruin. How would you prefer to be guided to move on in life?

Ans. Matilda lost the necklace that she borrowed from Madame Forestier. She had to buy a new necklace for thirty-six thousand francs which ruined all her savings. She had to change her lodgings and do all odd jobs like washing, cleaning and shopping grocery while her husband had to do extra work of copying after his office time. She lost all her charm and beauty. Now she realized that one little act of negligence can lead to total ruin. We will prefer to move on in life according to the situation. If we had committed any mistake we have to pay for it. And we should pay it bravely. There is no harm in doing household jobs or in earning extra money after office time. If we can live in a big house, we should learn to live in a small one too with the demand of time.

4. "Oh! My poor Matilda! Mine was false." Confession saves you from a lot of trouble and the sense of guilt. Justify the statement.

Ans. Matilda's friend Madame Forestier meets her after a long time, nearly a gap of ten years. Perhaps it was destined to. She does not recognize Matilda - old, hard and crude with dishevelled hair and skirts awry. She is astonished to see Matilda in this pathetic condition. Matilda tells her the reason for this - the loss of the original necklace and the misery that followed after replacing the necklace. Madame Forestier could only



sympathise with Matilda, for the necklace she had lent to Matilda was not of original diamonds. She could have told this clearly to Matilda while giving it to her. Perhaps Madame Forestier thought she should not dampen Matilda's spirits by revealing the truth. But what the loss of necklace brought to Matilda, was irreversible. Matilda on her part should have revealed the loss of the necklace to her friend. If it had been of real diamonds, then she could have asked for some time to replace it. Matilda could have thus taken her friend into confidence, but the silent suffering had really taken its toll on her life. If Matilda had only taken courage and been honest to her friend, she would still have been living comfortably, thus justifying the statement given above. Her own senseless attitude led to her ruin.

5. Write a character sketch of Mrs Loisel.

Ans. Matilda was exceptionally pretty. By virtue of her good looks, she felt that she was born for all delicacies and luxuries. She wished to be admired and loved and to be married to some rich or renowned person. But she was unlucky. She was born into a family of clerks. Since she had no dowry, she agreed to marry a petty clerk. She was always grumbling. The walls of her house tortured her. She dreamt of lavish parties and rich dresses and jewels. Her dreamy, ambitious and vain nature pushed her into trouble. She paid a heavy price for her foolish desires. She borrowed a necklace to wear at a ball. She was intoxicated with joy and success. But the necklace was lost. That ruined her physically as well as materiality. From a beauty queen she became a crude, hard shabby woman of a poor family. But she was brave and honest. She worked hard ungrudgingly to pay off her loan.

6. The story 'The Necklace' teaches us many lessons which form the crux of human values. Discuss.

Ans. The story 'The Necklace' teaches us many lessons which form the crux of human values. The very first thing it teaches us is the need to be content in life. Matilda, though born into a family of clerks and married to a petty clerk with the Board of Education, remains unhappy. She suffers from the feeling that she is born for all delicacies and luxuries, but has to live miserably in 'poverty'. So, when she has to attend the office party with her husband, she asks him for money to get a new dress. Her husband sacrifices the money he has saved to buy a gun to get her the dress. Then also she is not content. She feels that she could look still more beautiful with a jewel. She thus borrows a necklace from her friend, thinking that it is made of diamonds. At the party, she remains elegant, gracious, smiling and absolutely happy. She was thus the prettiest of all. But this vanity is short-lived and is the beginning of all troubles in her life. She loses the necklace and she gets a new diamond necklace as its replacement by borrowing heavily. Subsequently, she is pushed to live in poverty as she slogs for ten years to save money to pay back the huge debt. Then the horrible reality frightens her. She realizes how her false pride has taken away her otherwise happy contented life. The story thus discusses the negative effects of pride and vanity and stresses the importance of being satisfied with what one has honesty, love and sacrifice.

7. Loisel wished to keep his wife in good humour. Which values of Matilda impress him?

Ans. Loisel wished to keep his wife in good humour. Madame Loisel was a beautiful and delicate woman. She was fond of all riches and luxuries. She thought she deserves all these and thought that it is an error of destiny that she is born in a poor family and married to a mere clerk in the office of the Board of Education. Matilda's beauty and style impressed Loisel. He tried his best to keep her happy. She was fond of parties and balls. That's why when Loisel got an invitation of Ball of Minister's residence, he was happy for his wife. He bought her a new dress for the ball, with the money he had saved to buy a hunting gun. He loved her so much that he bought the new diamond necklace to replace the lost one for thirty-six thousand francs which lost all his savings and compelled him to do extra jobs after office time. These entire all he did because he loved his beautiful wife very much and wanted to keep her happy.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

Answer the following questions.

1. Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.
- A. He threw around her shoulders the modest wraps they had carried whose poverty clashed with the elegance of the ball costume. She wished to hurry away in order not to be noticed by the other women who were wrapping themselves in rich furs.
 - (a) Who is she?
 - (b) What was the cause of her inferiority complex?
 - (c) How can you say that Mr Loisle was a loving husband?
 - (d) Why do you think the tendency to show off becomes a curse for Matilda?
- B. She suffered incessantly, feeling born for all delicacies and luxuries. She suffered from the poverty of her apartment, the shabby walls and the worn chairs. All these things tortured and angered her.
 - (a) Who is 'she' in the above extract?
 - (b) Why did she suffer?
 - (c) Why does she feel tortured?
 - (d) What character traits of Matilda are revealed in the above extract?
- C. She had no dowry, no hopes, no means of becoming known, loved and married by a man either rich or distinguished; and she allowed herself to marry a petty clerk in the office of the Board of Education.
 - (a) Who is the description about?
 - (b) What sort of person is she?
 - (c) What is the outcome of her marriage?
 - (d) What did her husband do?

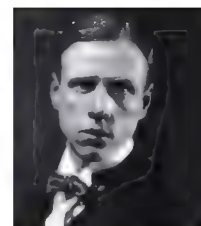
Answer the following questions.

2. How did Loiseles manage to pay for the necklace?
3. Why was Matilda's friend astonished to see her at the end of the story?
4. Madame Loisel was intoxicated with pleasure at the ball. Give three reasons to support your answer.
5. How did Monsieur Loisel and Madame Loisel manage to buy a diamond necklace to return it to Madame Forestier? What were the consequences?

THE HACK DRIVER

SUMMARY

The narrator after working his way through law school finds himself working in a law office that is sending him out to serve summons, which he thinks is below him. He was not very happy with this job because sometimes he had to face harsh situations while serving them. One day he got the task of serving summons to Oliver Lutkins who was a key witness in some case. He travels out by train to New Mullion to find this person. Upon arrival, he finds he needs to get around and find this person so he talks to the first person he encounters.



Sinclair Lewis

He says he is looking for Oliver Lutkins and hopes the man can help him. The man, Bill Magnuson, says he saw him a brief while ago and that he would be happy to drive him around to find the man. The narrator knows the man is trying to get some money out of him and he is ok with that so long as they find Lutkins. Over the course of the next few hours, Bill brings the narrator all over town where they keep missing Lutkins by a brief period of time. Eventually, Bill brings him to Lutkins' mother who also spins a tale of frustration about her son. The narrator returns to the office empty handed and is sent back to the town with the help of someone who actually knows Lutkins. When they arrive in town, the narrator spots Bill with Lutkins' mother. The narrator's partner explains that Bill is in fact Oliver Lutkins. When the narrator serves the summons, Lutkins laughs and says that he was hoping they could go to a neighbour's house for coffee since they were the only folks that missed him when he came by before.

NCERT SOLVED QUESTIONS

Read and Find Out

1. Why is the lawyer sent to New Mullion? What does he first think about the place?

Ans. The lawyer is sent to New Mullion to serve summons on Oliver Lutkins. He was required as a witness in a law case.

He had expected this place to be a sweet and simple country village. But contrary to his expectations, he was disappointed to see rows of wooden shops and muddy streets.

2. Who befriends him? Where does he take him?

Ans. A hackman befriends the lawyer. He was a red faced man of about forty with a cheerful and pleasant personality. First he takes him to Fritz's shop, then to Gustaff's barber shop, then to Gray's barber shop. From there he took him to poolroom and ultimately to Lutkin's mother's farm.

3. What does he say about Lutkins?

Ans. Bill told the lawyer that Lutkins was a careless dishonest wanderer. He was always upto something or the other. He liked to play poker game. He owed money to a number of people.

4. What more does Bill say about Lutkins and his family?

Ans. Bill says more about Lutkins that he must have got the news that somebody was searching him. Therefore, he must have hidden somewhere at his mother's farm. Bill says more about Lutkins' family that his mother was about 9 feet tall and 4 feet thick. She was very quarrelsome and short-tempered woman. Once she almost took his skin off for not treating the trunk like a box of eggs.

5. Does the narrator serve the summons that day?

Ans. No, the narrator was unable to serve the summons that day. He was in Lutkins' company the whole day. But failed to identify him as he had never seen or met him before.

6. Who is Lutkins?

Ans. Lutkins is the hackdriver in whose company the lawyer spends the whole day at New Mullion. Lutkins introduces himself to the lawyer by the name of Bill.

Think About It

1. When the lawyer reached New Mullion, did 'Bill' know that he was looking for Lutkins ? When do you think Bill came up with his plan for fooling the lawyer?

Ans. I don't think Bill knew that the lawyer was searching Lutkins after he reached New Mullion. Bill came to know it when the lawyer himself told him that he had come to that place to find a man named Oliver Lutkins. I think Bill came up with his plan for fooling the lawyer when he knew that the lawyer didn't recognise Lutkins. The lawyer also told Bill that he was in a hurry to go back by the afternoon train.

2. Lutkins openly takes the lawyer all over the village. How is it that no one lets out the secret. (Hint: Notice that the hack driver asks the lawyer to keep out of sight behind him when they go into Fritz's. Can you find other such subtle ways in which Lutkins manipulates the tour?)

Ans. He was always the first to enter the places where he took the lawyer. He prevented the lawyer from directly conversing with the persons at these places. He must have winked or told softly all his friends to join him in the fun. He manipulates the lawyer's tour in other ways too. He takes him to a hilltop and spends an hour there. Then he takes him to his mother's farm three miles away. He makes his mother frighten the lawyer.

3. Why do you think Lutkins' neighbours were anxious to meet the lawyer?

Ans. The lawyer was easily duped by Lutkins even though he was a highly qualified man of the city. When Lutkins and the young lawyer visited different locations of New Mullion, almost all the people in the town met the lawyer. This hilarious episode must have become the burning issue of the town. According to Lutkins, his neighbours were the only people in the town who had missed seeing him. And hence they were anxious to meet the lawyer.

4. After his first day's experience with the hack driver, the lawyer thinks of returning to New Mullion to practise law. Do you think he would have reconsidered this idea after his second visit?

Ans. The lawyer was deeply hurt when he realised that he had been duped and made a butt of laughter. He found Lutkins and his mother laughing at him and his friends joining and enjoying befooling him. He concluded that villagers were not as simple, sincere, honest, helpful as he thought them to be on his first visit. Hence according to me, he must have completely dropped the thought of commencing his legal practice at New Mullion.

5. Do you think the lawyer was gullible ? How could he have avoided being taken for a ride?

Ans. Yes, I think the lawyer was gullible. He very easily trusted a stranger. He opened the purpose of his visit to him. He relied on whatever the stranger said. He did not talk to the people directly. He could have avoided being taken for a ride. In advance, he should have viewed Lutkins' photo. He should have Lutkins' home address. He should have first made enquiries from Lutkins' neighbours and other persons. He shouldn't have told about his return journey.

6. Do we come across persons like Lutkins only in fiction or do we encounter them in real life as well ? You can give examples from fiction or narrate an incident that you have read in the newspaper or an incident from real life.

Ans. We come across persons like Lutkins not only in fiction but also in real life. I narrate an incident from the real life.

Once, two persons in the dress of saints came to my house. They requested for some help. I offered them ten rupee note. They at once understood my nature. Then, one of them showed me a 'shivling' and said it was miraculous and was of Rs. 700. I paid the amount but I found it ordinary.

7. Who is a 'con man' or a 'confidence trickster'?

Ans. One who first wins the trust of a person and then dupes him is called a con man. He is a cunning, deceptive and dishonest person who cheats and tricks others like Oliver Lutkins in the chapter.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS
EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the extracts given below carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. I had to go dirty and shadowy corners of the city to seek out victims. Some of the larger and more self confident ones even beat me up.
 - (a) Who is 'I'?
 - (b) Why was 'I' beaten up?
 - (c) What does the word, 'victim' mean?

- Ans.** (a) 'I' is author, Sinclair Lewis, a Junior Assistant Clerk.
 (b) He was beaten because he went to serve summons to the victims to appear as a witness in court which they disliked.
 (c) 'Victims' means the persons on whom summons were to served.
2. He was so open and friendly that I glowed with the warmth of his affection. I knew, of course, that he wanted the business, but his kindness was real.
 - (a) Who is 'he' in these lines?
 - (b) Give an instance of his kindness.
 - (c) Find a word from the extract which means 'a gentle feeling of fondness'.
 - (d) Give an opposite of 'kindness'?

- Ans.** (a) 'He' in these lines is Bill Magnuson, the hack driver.
 (b) He offered to take the narrator through the village and find Lutkins.
 (c) Affection.
 (d) Cruelty.
3. What really hurt me was that when I served the summons, Lutkins and his mother laughed at me as though I were a bright boy of seven.
 - (a) What hurt the narrator?
 - (b) Why did the two laugh?
 - (c) Find a word from the extract similar in meaning to 'delivered'?
 - (d) Give an opposite of 'bright'?

- Ans.** (a) The laughter of Lutkins and his mother hurt the narrator.
 (b) The two laughed because they had been successful in fooling him.
 (c) Served.
 (d) Dull.

4. So I rejoiced one day when they sent me out forty miles in the county to a town called New Mullion, to serve summons to a man, called Oliver Lutkin.
 - (a) Who is 'I'?
 - (b) Why was 'I' sent to New Mullion?
 - (c) What does the word, 'rejoiced' mean?
 - (d) For whom were the summons?

- Ans.** (a) 'I' is the narrator, a junior assistant clerk.
 (b) 'I' the narrator was sent to New Mullion to serve summons on a man, called Oliver Lutkins, who was a witness in a law suit.
 (c) Happy
 (d) Oliver Lutkins.



SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. Why was the lawyer not happy with his job?

Ans. The lawyer was not happy with his job because he was made to deliver summons instead of preparing legal briefs. For that task, he had to go to dirty and shadowy corners of the city. He also feared of being beaten up by the witnesses.

2. Who was Lutkins? Did the narrator serve the summons that day? Why?

Ans. Oliver Lutkins was a man from New Mullion who was to be served a summon to testify for a pending court case. The narrator, the lawyer who was assigned the task, was cleverly tricked by Lutkins who exploited the gullibility of the former and helped him chase himself, thus subjecting him to ridicule by the village folk. No, the lawyer could not serve the summons that day for its obvious reason.

3. Describe the hack driver's appearance in your own words.

Ans. The hack driver looked to be about forty years in age. His face was red. He wore dirty and worn out clothes but he was cheerful.

4. Why does the hack driver offer to ask about Oliver Lutkins?

Ans. The hack driver was no other than Oliver Lutkins himself. He did not wish to take the summons and go as a witness. So, he pretended to be a hack driver. He offered to help the lawyer so that the lawyer could not come to know about him from someone else.

5. What attitude did the lawyer have to the country life? How did his experience at New Mullion change it?

Ans. The lawyer was under the impression that away from the hustle and bustle of city life, the people in the country led a pleasant, simple, honest, helpful and peaceful life. But his experience in New Mullion with the smart hack driver, who himself was Oliver Lutkins- who humiliated and befooled him with his clever tricks and quick thinking, made the lawyer change his overview of the country life.

6. How did Lutkins' mother treat the lawyer?

Ans. The hack driver took him to the farm of Lutkins' mother. He introduced the lawyer and told her that he had come to serve summons to Lutkins and had legal right to search the property. The mother got irritated and attacked him with hot iron rods. Both got scared and ran away.

7. How was the hack driver recognized?

Ans. Next morning, the lawyer was sent back to New Mullion with a man who knew Lutkins by face. At the station, the lawyer saw Bill talking to Lutkin's mother in friendly manner. He was surprised to know that Bill was no other but Lutkin himself.

8. On his way back, the narrator did not worry about his failure to find Lutkins. What was the reason behind his carefree attitude?

Ans. On his way back, the lawyer did not worry about the failure of his mission, for he was too busy thinking about Bill Magnuson, the hack driver. In fact, he even started considering his return to New Mullion to practice law. He found Bill deep and richly human and pictured an honest and happy life in the village.

9. How did the chief react when the narrator returned to his town?

Ans. The chief was furious at the narrator's failure to serve summons on Lutkins. He decided to send a man who knew Lutkins with the narrator the next day to serve summons on Lutkins.

10. What information about Lutkins did the hack driver give to the narrator?

Ans. The hack driver told the narrator that Lutkins was a carefree, fickle minded person. He had a craze for playing 'poker' and did not pay to many partners. He was often hanging out at different places. It was hard to catch him.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words.

1. The Hack driver pretended that he was looking for Lutkins when he was Lutkins himself in real life. How did Lutkins make the lawyer a wise person?

Ans. The hack driver misguided the lawyer and openly drove him all over the village. He took him to many places such as Fritz's shop, Gustaff's barber shop, Gray's barber shop, Beninese's Mustafa, pool room and his mother's farmyard. He charged him two dollars an hour for all his visits. He himself talked low of Lutkins and did not allow him to meet anyone directly.

The lawyer could have been more protective in some ways. He should have talked to more people rather than enjoy a whole day at the expense of the firm. He should not have hidden behind the hack driver but should have tried to talk once to the villagers. He should not give have the lead to the hack driver. Instead, he should have led this visit himself, inquiring from more and more people.

2. Describe Bill as seen through the eyes of the narrator.

Ans. The narrator was much impressed with Bill. He first meets him at the station. He finds him to be friendly and cheerful. Bill is very helpful as he offers to take him around in search of Lutkins. The narrator admires him when he goes looking for Lutkins on his behalf. Bill is full of wonderful village charm. The narrator finds Bill to have a unique country wisdom. He admires him as a story teller. He appreciates him a lot when Bill even goes to Lutkins' mother's place to find him. For the narrator, Bill is a friendly man who helps others generously. He is so impressed by Bill that he decides to settle down in the village.

3. What really hurt the feelings of the narrator in the story, 'The Hack Driver'?

Ans. The narrator was under the impression that the country people were honest, simple and helpful. Such impression made him gullible because he was easily befooled by the hack driver who himself was Oliver Lutkins. The narrator was hurt when Lutkins and his mother laughed at him. He felt like a fool who was easily coaxed into believing that Lutkins was someone else whereas Lutkins was with him the whole day. He felt really shameful on his act and realized that he should have done his homework more carefully about finding out the details of Oliver Lutkins.

4. Describe the encounter of the young lawyer with the hack driver in the village.

Ans. The author was sent to New Mullion to serve summons to Lutkins. At the station, he met a cheerful hack driver who was Lutkins himself. The hack driver took advantage of the situation as the author, who had never met Lutkins before, could not identify him. The fun loving Lutkins introduced himself as Bill. He offered him all his help to find Lutkins. He took him all over the village but in vain. He entertained the author with his lucid description of the village folk, charged him two dollars per hour and half a dollar for food. The author was impressed by the warm affection, kind and helpful nature of Bill and the hospitality and cooperation of the villagers. He thought of leaving his present job and starting his legal practice at New Mullion.



TEST YOUR SKILLS

Answer the following questions.

1. What kind of opinion did the narrator form of the Hack driver in their first meeting?
 2. Why had the narrator "considered returning to New Mullion to practise law"?
 3. Why did Bill and his mother laugh at the lawyer in the end? How did the narrator feel?
 4. Describe briefly the narrator's first visit to New Mullion..
 5. How did Bill paint a picture of people in words?
 6. Why was the lawyer happy about the day?
-

BHOLI

SUMMARY

This story is all about a simple village girl named Bholi. Her real name was Sulekha. But fate deceived her and when she was ten months old, she fell off the cot damaging some part of her brain. As a result, she could pick up speech only after she was five years old, but she stammered. Later on, when she was two - years old, she had an attack of small pox that left her with black spots all over the body. The other children often made fun of her and mimicked her. Therefore, she talked very little.

Ramlal had seven children in all - three sons and four daughters. Bholi was the youngest.

All others were healthy and strong except Bholi. Bholi was seven years old when a primary school opened in their village. The tehsildar came to perform the opening ceremony of the school. He told Ramlal that as a revenue official and as a representative of the government in the village, he should send his daughter to the school and set an example before the villagers. When he consulted his wife about the issue, his wife did not agree with him. Yet, she decided to send Bholi to the school.

The next day, Bholi was given a bath, and a new dress to wear. Her mother matted her hair and then she was sent to the school. When her father left her in the school, she sat in a corner in the class. When her teacher asked her name, she stammered and the children started laughing. At this Bholi started weeping. But the teacher's voice was soft and soothing. It encouraged her a lot and finally she could tell her full name. Then the teacher told her that if she would come daily to school, she would speak without a stammer and one day she would become the most educated girl in the village. Then no one will dare to laugh at her. Then they will listen to her carefully.

Years passed and the village now turned into a small town. One night Ramlal consulted his wife about the proposal made by Bishamber, a grocer in the neighbouring village. His wife readily agreed to it. Bholi was also listening to this conversation. The day of her marriage came. When the bridegroom was about to garland her, some lady pulled her veil down showing her face to him. The bridegroom had a quick glance at her face and noticed pox marks on her face. At this, he asked Ramlal to give him five thousand rupees as dowry in order to marry that ugly girl. After some arguments, Ramlal handed over the money to Bishambar. But Bholi asked her father to take money back from him as she did not want to marry that old lame and greedy person. Everybody was surprised because Bholi was not stammering at all. The bridegroom went back with his baraat. Ramlal could not lift his head due to shame and grief. He asked Bholi as who will marry her now. But Bholi said to him that she would serve her parents in their old age and teach in the same school where she had learnt so much.



K. A. Abbas

NCERT SOLVED QUESTIONS

Read and Find out

1. Why is Bholi's father worried about her?

OR

Why was Numberdar Ramlal worried about Bholi?

Ans. Ramlal had seven children. All of them except Bholi were good-looking, healthy and strong. Hence it was not difficult to find suitable good matches for them. But on the contrary Bholi had neither good looks nor intelligence. So her father was worried about her.

2. For what unusual reasons is Bholi sent to school?

OR

Why is Bholi sent to school?

Ans. A primary school opened in Bholi's village. The Tehsildar asks Bholi's father to send his daughters to school. It is socially restricted to send girls to school. Nobody would marry a girl who has gone to school. But Bholi's father has no courage to disobey the tehsildar. Bholi's mother suggests that Bholi should be sent to school. She being ugly and witless already stood no chance of getting married. Thus they send Bholi to school to please the tehsildar.

3. Does Bholi enjoy her first day at school?

Ans. Yes, Bholi enjoyed her first day at school. She felt happy to see many girls there. The coloured picture on the wall fascinated her. She cried when the girls laughed at her stammer, but the teacher's soft and soothing voice encouraged her.

4. Does she find her teacher different from the people at home?

Ans. Yes, she finds her teacher different from the people at home. Her teacher is kind, sympathetic encouraging and affectionate whereas the people at home neglect her. The teacher told that schooling will make her learned and respected.

5. Why do Bholi's parents accept Bishamber's marriage proposal?

Ans. Bholi's parents accept Bishamber's marriage proposal because he is a wealthy grocer. He didn't demand dowry. They fear that being ugly and witless no one else will marry her.

6. Why does the marriage not take place?

Ans. The marriage does not take place because on seeing pockmarks on Bholi's ace, Bishamber demands dowry of Rs. 5000. Then, Bholi refuses to marry such a mean, greedy and contemptible coward.

Think about It

1. Bholi had many apprehensions about going to school. What made her feel that she was going to a better place than her home?

Ans. Bholi had many apprehensions about going to school. She didn't know what a school was like. She thought she would be turned out of the house and sold like their old cow, Lakshmi.

She was given a bath. Then, oil was rubbed into her dry and matted hair. After that, a clean dress was given to her to put on. All these made her feel that she was going to a better place than her home.

2. How did Bholi's teacher play an important role in changing the course of her life?

OR

Discuss the role of Bholi's teacher in changing her entire life.

Ans. Bholi's teacher played a very important role in changing her life. She was the first person who spoke to her affectionately. She encouraged her to speak out her name without any fear. She inculcated in her a desire to learn. Then she would be more learned. And no one would be able to laugh at her ever. Then people would listen to her and would respect her. She turned her into a confident, daring, self-respecting person who could take her own decisions.

3. Why did Bholi at first agree to an unequal match? Why did she later reject the marriage? What does this tell us about her?

Ans. Bholi agreed to an unequal match because she had pockmarks so no one else would marry her. Her parents were worried about her marriage so to free them from this worry she agreed to it.

She later rejected the marriage because Bishamber, the groom, demanded Rs. 5000 when he saw her pockmarks. She refused to marry a mean, greedy and contemptible coward.

This tells us about her that she is now a bold, confident, self-respecting and selfdecisive girl and not a dumb-driven-cow.

4. Bholi's real name is Sulekha. We are told this right at the beginning. But only in the last but one paragraph of the story in Bholi called Sulekha again. Why do you think she is called Sulekha at that point in the story?

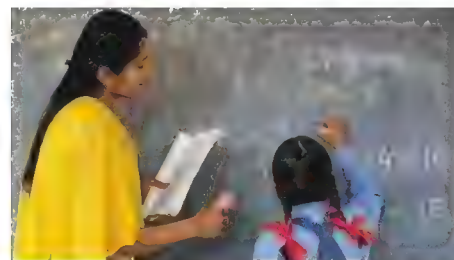
Ans. Sulekha was called Bholi because she was considered to be a simpleton or a foolish girl. Thus the name Bholi symbolises her lack of confidence and wisdom.

There is no incident or event in the whole story except at the end that proves that she was no longer a simpleton. This is a conscious effort of the author to showcase that ultimately Sulekha has achieved her real identity by literally flinging her veil into the fire.

5. Bholi's teacher helped her overcome social barriers by encouraging and motivating her. How do you think you can contribute towards changing the social attitudes illustrated in this story?

Ans. Bholi's teacher helped her overcome social barriers by encouraging and motivating her.

I think I can contribute towards changing the social attitudes illustrated in this story by making people aware of the benefits of girls' education, by sending my own daughters to school and by guiding them free of cost for competitive exams.



6. Should girls be aware of their rights and assert them? Should girls and boys have the same rights, duties and privileges? What are some of the ways in which society treats them differently? When we speak of 'human rights', do we differentiate between girls' rights and boys' rights?

Ans. Yes, girls should be aware of their rights and assert them.

Yes, girls and- boys should have the same rights, duties and privileges.

These are some of the ways in which society treats them differently. Boys are given higher education whereas girls are given simple education. Girls face restrictions while boys enjoy freedom.

When we speak of 'human rights', we do not differentiate between girls' rights and boys' rights.

7. Do you think the characters in the story were speaking to each other in English? If not, in which language were they speaking? (You can get clues from the names of the persons and the non-English words used in the story.)

Ans. According to me, the characters of the story don't talk in English with each other. Their names Bholi, Bishamber, Ramlal, Radha, Mangla, Champa, Sulekha, Laxmi etc. are all Hindi names. Moreover the use of certain Hindi words like Numberdar, Tehsildar, Ijrat, Pitaji, Sahib, disclose that the characters must be speaking in Hindi among themselves.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the extracts given below carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. She remembered how a few days ago their old cow, Lakshmi, had been turned out of the house and sold. "N-n-n No, no-no-no," she shouted in terror and pulled her hand away from her father's grip.

- Why did Bholi shout in terror?
- Why did she remember 'Lakshmi'?
- What is the antonym of 'forgotten' in the extract?
- The present tense of 'sold' is _____.

Ans. (a) Bholi shouted in terror as she thought that her father was turning her out of her house.

(b) She remembered her cow 'Lakshmi' because 'Lakshmi' had also been turned out of the house a few days ago.

(c) 'Remembered' is the antonym of 'forgotten' in the extract.

(d) Its present tense is 'sell'.

2. He said to Ramlal, "As a revenue official you are the representative of the government in the village and so you must set an example to the villagers. You must send your daughters to school."

- Who is 'he'?
- What example does 'he' want Ramlal to set?
- What does the word 'revenue' mean?
- What part of speech is the word 'an' in the extract?

Ans. (a) 'He' is the Tehsildar.

(b) The Tehsildar wanted Ramlal to send his daughters to the village school so that other villagers will follow his example by sending their daughters to the school too.

(c) It means 'tax'.

(d) It is an article.

3. And in her smiling eyes was the light of a deep satisfaction that an artist feels when contemplating the completing of her masterpiece.

(a) What satisfaction did the teacher have?

(b) Who was the 'masterpiece'?

(c) Find a word from the extract which means 'thinking deeply'.

(d) What is the opposite of 'deep'?



Ans. (a) The teacher had the satisfaction of seeing her pupil (Bholi) turn into a bold girl willing to fight for her rights.

(b) Bholi was the 'masterpiece.'

(c) 'Contemplating ' from the extract means 'thinking deeply'.

(d) Its opposite is 'superficial'.

4. Bishamber raised the garland to place it around the bride's neck; but before he could do so, Bholi's hand struck out like a streak of lightning and the garland was flung into the fire. She got up and threw away the veil.

(a) What did Bholi do?

(b) Why did she do it?

(c) Why did Bholi at first agree to an unequal match?

(d) Later, she rejected the marriage. What does this tell us about her?

Ans. (a) Bholi suddenly stood up and threw away the garland into the fire.

(b) Because she did not agree to the condition of Bishamber of five thousand rupees.

(c) This was because she never wanted to add to the worries of her parents by her refusal.

(d) Her behaviour reflected that she was no longer a timid, tame, dumb driven cow but a bold, confident and self respecting girl.

5. For the sake of this kind woman, however, she decided to make an effort. She had such a soothing voice; she would not laugh at her.

(a) Who was the kind woman?

(b) What idea do you form about this woman?

(c) Was her approach effective?

(d) Why do you think Bholi's teacher played an important role in changing her life?

Ans. (a) The teacher of Bholi.

(b) The teacher spoke in a soft voice knowing that Bholi was in fear. She wanted to give confidence to the stammering Bholi.

(c) Yes, it proved to be very effective for Bholi.

(d) Bholi's teacher made her confident, daring and self respecting person who had the courage to refuse to marry a lame and greedy old man.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. How did Sulekha come to be known as Bholi?

Ans. Sulekha was the fourth daughter of Numberdar Ramlal. When she was ten months old, she had fallen off the cot on her head and perhaps it had damaged some part of her brain. The fall and the consequent damage to her brain made her a backward child and she came to be known as Bholi, the simpleton.

2. Fate had been too cruel with Bholi. Explain.

Ans. At birth, Bholi was very fair and pretty. After her accidental fall from the cot and the consequent damage to her brain, when she was two years old, she had an attack of small-pox. Only the eyes were saved, but the entire body was permanently disfigured by deep black pock-marks. Little Sulekha could not speak till she was five, and when at last she learnt to speak, she stammered.

3. Why did Bholi talk very little? Give two reasons.

Ans. Bholi, after her repeated misfortunes, developed stammering after an attack of small-pox. When she stammered while speaking, other children in the household made fun of her by laughing at her and by imitating/copying her stammering. Thus, to avoid being laughed at by others, Bholi talked little.

4. What kind of farmer was Ramlal? What was his worry about Bholi?

Ans. Ramlal was a rich farmer. His household was a prosperous one with plenty of food to eat. All the children were really healthy and strong except Bholi. Being an impartial father for all his children, Ramlal's worry was about Bholi - about her health and appearance.

5. Why did the Tehsildar ask Ramlal to send his daughters to school? Give two reasons.

Ans. When a primary school for girls was opened in Bholi's village, the Tehsildar asked Ramlal to send his daughters to the school because Ramlal was a revenue official. In the Tehsildar's opinion, Ramlal, being a government employee, should set an example to the villagers by sending his own children to the school to motivate the rest of the villagers.

6. Why did Ramlal's wife disagree when he consulted her for sending Bholi to school?

Ans. During those days, ordinary people could not think of sending their daughters to schools. Sending a daughter to school was considered unbecoming to a gentle and respected family. Besides, it was hard to find a boy for an educated girl to be married to.

7. What made Ramlal's wife finally agree to send Bholi to school?

Ans. Although Ramlal's wife was indifferent to sending her daughters to school, she found it a sound idea sending the deformed and stammering Bholi to school. In her opinion, Bholi would not get a groom due to her deformity so the question of marriage was out of the context.

8. Why did Bholi feel frightened at the idea of being taken to school? Give two reasons.

Ans. Bholi was frightened when her father asked her to accompany him to school. She did not know what a school was like. She felt like being sold off because she remembered how a few days ago their old cow, Lakshmi, had been turned out of the house and sold. She shouted in terror and pulled her hand away from her father's grip. In addition to this, Bholi was the first girl from her village to attend the school where sending a girl to school was considered ruinous.

9. What made Bholi think that school would be a better place for her than home?

Ans. On the day she was sent to school, Bholi had clean clothes to put on. She was even bathed and oil was rubbed into her dry and her hair matted. Seeing this elaborate process, she began to believe that she was being taken to a place better than her home.

10. New clothes had never been made for Bholi. The old dresses of her sisters were passed on to her. What light does this statement reflect about her parents behaviour?

Ans. Bholi's parents were of the opinion that Bholi didn't need to look charming with her permanent marks of smallpox on her face and stammering in addition to her deformity. They could not understand the child's inner cravings for new dresses and new things. They discriminated Bholi from her sisters and brothers.

11. Pick out relevant facts from the unit which suggest that the society was against girls education.

Ans. During Bholi's time, society was indifferent to education for girls. It was a time when woman was supposed to be a domestic animal, giving birth to her husband's children and do all the works for the family while men had his freedom. If a woman was educated, it was believed, she would shirk from her responsibilities and the social structure would break.

12. How did Bholi feel like on the first day in the school? **OR** What drew Bholi to the atmosphere of her school?

Ans. When Ramlal handed Bholi over to the headmistress, Bholi felt left alone. She looked about her with fear-laden eyes. She saw girls squatting on mats and reading from books or writing on slates. The headmistress asked Bholi to sit down in a corner in one of the classrooms. She was altogether scared of everything because she had never been to a school before. She did not understand what was going on in the classroom. There were pictures of horses, goats, parrots and cows on the classroom wall. On the other hand, she felt good to be in the company of several girls and her good teacher who was very patient and loving.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words.

1. Bholi chose a dignified life of service rather than surrendering herself to a greedy old man for the rest of her life. Education provides the required stimulus to overcome one's personal barriers. Explain the role of education in shaping the life of a child with respect to the lesson 'Bholi'.

Ans. Education is the answer to all social ills. Illiteracy and ignorance bring nothing but poverty, suffering and misery. Bholi lacks confidence initially because of her disabilities. She is silent, timid and weak in mind. Her ugliness and her stammer do not let her progress. She is afraid to speak as others make fun of her. School changes her life completely. It opens a new world of hope for her. Her teacher treats her with love and kindness. Her affection and support help Bholi to have faith in herself. She studies and grows into a confident young woman. She knows her rights and she asserts them as well. She refuses to marry a man who demands dowry. Thus, being educated changes the life of Bholi.

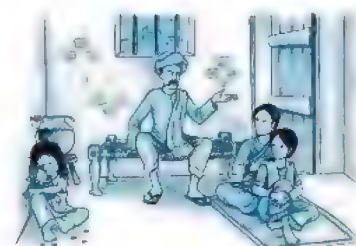
2. What impression of Bholi's parents do you have?

Ans. The story presents Bholi's parents as orthodox rural Indians. They send their sons to the city for getting them educated, but the girls are made to stay at home. In their view, nobody would marry the girls if they go to school. They take proper care of their three daughters. But Bholi, who lacks good looks and intelligence, is neglected. The mother is particularly prejudiced against her less fortunate daughter. In short, we don't have a good impression of them.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

Answer the following questions.

- In what respect was Bholi different from her sisters?
- How was the teacher's behaviour towards Bholi on her first day in school?
- Why was Bholi fascinated by the pictures on the walls of her classroom?
- How did Bholi prove to be her teacher's masterpiece?
- Bholi was known to be a 'dumb cow'. How did she turn out to be an outspoken and fearless girl?
- Initially Bholi had many apprehensions about going to school. What made her feel that she was going to a better place than her home?



THE BOOK THAT SAVED THE EARTH

SUMMARY

The play 'The Book That Saved The Earth' is full of imagination.

In it, the different characters like Think-Tank, Noodle, Oop, Omega etc. play as the Martian living beings. The time set of the play is 25th century. The play tells us in detail as how the book successfully saved the earth from Martian invasion. Think-Tank who is the mightiest and the most brilliant among all the Martians is the commander - in - chief. Think-Tank conducts the manned space probe in order to ask them their position. At this Think-Tank asks them to show him the place closely. In fact, they were in a library full of different books. But they fail to understand where they were. Then Think-Tank tries to show his intelligence and tells his crew that the thing in question was a sandwich. Then one of the crew members even eats the corner of a book to confirm the views of Think-Tank. After some time Noodle suggests Think-Tank that it was not for eating but for communication with ears. After some time Noodle again suggests Think-Tank that it was not for ear communication but for eye communication.

Then they open the books and try to read them. But they fail to understand the language. The Omega opens a big volume of 'Mother Goose' and tries to read it. Noodle asks Think-Tank if the chemical department has given them the vitamins to increase intelligence and then read the sandwiches. As Oop starts reading the book of nursery rhymes to Think-Tank, who feels trouble. He leaves the idea of invading. Instead, he tries to save himself from the invasion of the earthlings. He orders his crew to leave the earth at once and he himself runs to safety.

NCERT SOLVED QUESTIONS

Read and Find out

1. Why was the twentieth century called the 'Era of the Book'?

Ans. The 20th century was called the 'Era of the Book' because in those days there were books about everything, from anteaters to Zulus. Books taught people how to and when to, and where to and why to. They illustrated, punctuated, and even decorated. But the strangest thing a book ever did was to save the Earth. There was Martian invasion of 2040. This invasion never really happened because a single book stopped it.

2. Who tried to invade the earth in the twenty-first century?

Ans. The Martians tried to invade the earth in the twenty-first century. Think Tank, the Commander-in-chief, and the ruler of Mars wished to include the Earth in his domain.

3. What guesses are made by Think-Tank about the books found on the earth?

Ans. Think-Tank guesses that the books found on the earth are sandwiches. Then at the inkling of his apprentice, Noodle, Think-Tank guesses that the books of the earth are communication sandwiches. Again, on Noodle's conveyance, Think-Tank agrees that those books are for eye communication.

Think about It

1. Noodle avoids offending Think-Tank but at the same time he corrects his mistakes. How does he manage to do that?

Ans. Noodle avoids offending Think-Tank but at the same time he corrects his mistakes. He manages to do that wisely and in a tribble way. Think-Tank is his boss. He cannot afford offending him. So, he corrects his mistakes by offering his knowledge in a very polite way, for instance he says, - (1) 'I beg your pardon, but an insignificant bit of data floated into my mind' about those sandwiches.

(2) 'Please excuse me, your Brilliance, but a cloudy piece of information is twirling around in my head.'



2. If you were in Noodle's place, how would you handle Think Tank's mistakes?

Ans. Think-Tank was an arrogant, vain and domineering ruler. He considered himself to be the mightiest, cleverest, the most knowledgeable and enlightened person who could never commit a folly.

Such persons need to be handled very cautiously. Because if their mistakes are pointed to them directly and openly, they tend to get hurt.

If I were in Noodle's place, I would have handled Think-Tank in the same manner as Noodle did. Like Noodle, I would have pinpointed his mistakes in a discreet and humble manner.

3. Do you think books are being replaced by the electronic media? Can we do away with books altogether?

Ans. Yes, I think books are being replaced by the electronic media. E-books and e-notebooks are being used in higher and technical education and in other fields too.

I don't think we can do away with real books. They are our best companions. They never demand anything from us but give us unlimited knowledge.

A book can be carried anywhere at any time and can be read in any corner of the world. But for reading an e-book, one has to sit stiffly in front of the computer or laptop.

4. Why are books referred to as a man's best companion? Which is your favourite book and why? Write a paragraph about that book.

Ans. Books are treasures of unlimited knowledge. They don't demand anything in return. They inspire us, motivate us, encourage us, and guide us.

My favourite book is 'Pride and Prejudice' by the famous writer Jane Austen. I like it the most as it is a reflection of life of a number of characters belonging to a middle class family, their struggle to lead a luxurious life within limited income and their craving for a pompous life of aristocratic elites of society. It depicts the struggle of a mother of four daughters of marriageable age whose chief aim of life is getting her daughters married to decent rich boys.

5. In what ways does Think-Tank misinterpret innocent nursery rhymes as threats to the Martians? Can you think of any incidents where you misinterpreted a word or an action? How did you resolve the misunderstanding?

Ans. In the following ways Think-Tank misinterprets innocent nursery rhymes as threats to the Martians.

By the words 'garden grow, cockle shells and silver bells', he understands that the earthlings have combined agriculture and mining. They can grow explosives.

By the words 'cow jumped over the moon', he concludes that the animals on earth are being trained to attack other planets.

By 'Humpty Dumpty', he infers that the earthlings are planning his capture.

Yes, I think of an incident where I misinterpreted a word or an action.

Once, my mother asked me to dust the front window panes. I took a dirty cloth and soiled these.

When, later, my mother saw these, she laughed and told me that 'dust' means 'to clean'.

I resolved the misunderstanding by learning one more use of the word 'dust'. And then cleaned the window panes.

6. The aliens in this play speak English. Do you think this is their language? What could be the language of the aliens?

Ans. According to me, aliens don't speak English language. If their language had been English, they could have read and understood the nursery rhymes. And could not have taken vitamin pills to decipher them. Then Think-Tank could not have misinterpreted them as a threat on Mars.

According to me, aliens' language would have been a strange language totally different from our language.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS
EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the extracts given below carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. "I've counted two thousand of these peculiar items. This place must be some sort of storage barn.
(a) Who is the speaker here?
(b) Where is he and what is he referring to as peculiar item?
(c) What is a barn?
(d) Why have Iota, Oops and Omega come to the earth?

Ans. (a) Iota
(b) He is in library and he is referring to the books found there as peculiar items.
(c) A covered building for storing hay.
(d) Think-Tank, the ruler of Mars wanted to invade the earth. Iota, Oops and Omega are the crew.

2. Historian : (chuckling) And that's how one dusty old book of nursery rhymes saved the world from a Martian invasion.
(a) What was the name of the book?
(b) Why did the Historian chuckle?
(c) Which word in the extract is a synonym of 'Conquer'?
(d) What part of speech is 'And' as used in the extract?



Ans. (a) 'Mother Goose' was the name of the book.
(b) The historian chuckled at the idea that the misinterpretation of a book saved the Earth.
(c) 'Invasion' from the extract is the synonym of 'conquer'.
(d) Conjunction.

3. "The Earthlings have reached a high level of civilization. Didn't you hear? They have taught their domesticated animals musical culture and space techniques. Even their dogs have a sense of humour. Why at this very moment, they may be launching an interplanetary attack on millions of cows! Notify the invasion fleet. No invasion today, Oop transcribe the next code."
(a) Who is the speaker?
(b) What could have been the recent strategy of the Earthlings?
(c) What was the second rhyme about?
(d) How did Think-Tank interpret it?

Ans. (a) The Think-Tank is the speaker of these lines.
(b) The Earthlings strategy may be to launch an interplanetary attack on millions of cows.
(c) This was about the cat and the fiddle, the cow jumped over the moon, the dog laughed to see it etc.
(d) He thought that the Earthlings had reached a high level of civilization- they have taught their domesticated animals musical culture and spae techniques.

4. Iota : I can't figure it out, Captain. (holding up a book) I've counted two thousand of these peculiar items. This place must be some sort of storage barn.
- (a) What could Iota not figure out?
(b) Where was Iota?
(c) Find the antonym of the word 'ordinary' in the extract.
(d) What part of speech is 'peculiar' as used in the extract?
- Ans.** (a) Iota could not figure out what the books were because he had never seen a book before.
(b) Iota was at Centerville Public Library on Earth.
(c) The antonym of ordinary is peculiar.
(d) It is an adjective.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. What was the plan of Martians? Did they succeed in their attempt?
- Ans.** The Martians planned to capture and invade the earth in 2010. No, they could not get success. This was because a single book stopped the invasion of the earth.
2. What difficulty do the crew of the space probe face on Earth?
- Ans.** The space probe lands in a public library. The crew is shocked because the place looked very strange as they had no idea of books. They think the library to be some kind of storage barn.
3. Who is declared 'the most powerful and intelligent creature' in the play?
- Ans.** Think-Tank is declared as the most powerful and intelligent creature in the play. He is considered the wisest creature in the universe. He is commander in chief of the MARS SPACE CONTROL.
4. Why did Think-Tank order the invasion fleet to evacuate the entire planet of Mars?
- Ans.** Think-Tank ordered the invasion fleet to evacuate the entire planet of Mars because he thought that the Earthlings were after him and would kill him.
5. What did the Martians consider the books in the library?
- Ans.** The Martians who arrived to invade the earth entered in a library hall. They considered the hall as a restaurant and the books as sandwiches.
6. Why did Think-Tank send his crew on the earth?
- Ans.** Think-Tank, the ruler of Mars regarded the Earth as a mass of mud, and Earthlings as ugly, tiny-headed creatures. He planned to invade Earth and expand his domain. He sent probe one to Earth to get more information about the Earthlings.
7. Who was Omega? Why did he try to eat the book?
- Ans.** Omega was the captain of the space Probe One, on Earth. Think-Tank asked him to pick up the most colourful sandwich (book) and report him about his observation on it.
8. How did a book change Think-Tank's opinion about the Earthlings?
- Ans.** This is totally misunderstood by the Martians. The Martians thought that earthlings were planning to invade Mars. So, they cancelled their invasion of Earth and went back. Think-Tank totally misunderstands the book. Phrases like 'shell', 'silver', 'garden' gave him a false idea that earthlings grew silver and weapons. He starts thinking that earthlings are very advanced technologically.

9. Why did Think-Tank decide to evacuate the Mars?

Ans. Think-Tank misinterpreted the rhymes and thought that Earthlings were a threat to him as well as to Mars. He got scared and called back Probe One, dropped the idea of invading and escaped to Alpha Centauri, a hundred million miles away from Mars.

10. What steps did the crew take to decipher to code in the sandwich?

Ans. Martians reached the library in the process of invasion of earth. They had never seen books before that. They did not understand where they are and what are the things placed in different racks. Firstly, they thought that they were sandwiches and tried to eat them. Then they misunderstood that sandwiches are used as some sort of communication device. Later they took them as eye communication and not ear communication, and understand that they had to take vitamins to understand all these codes.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words.

1. What guesses are made by Think-Tank about the books found on earth?

Ans. Think-Tank makes guesses that the books are the kind of crude refreshment stand and calls it a sandwich, or a communication satellite. On Noodle's suggestion, chemical vitamins are taken which enable Omega to transcribe the code of nursery rhymes on 'Mistress Mary', 'Humpty-Dumpty' and 'Hey Diddle Diddle! The cat and the fiddle'. All the poems make Think-Tank come to conclusion that Earthlings have a high level of civilization and that they have been targeted by them and so decides to escape from Mars.

2. Write the character sketch of Think-Tank in brief.

Ans. Think-Tank is a living being from Mars who has a huge and egg shaped head. He wears a long robe decorated with stars and circles. He considers himself to be the most powerful and intelligent creature in the whole universe. He thinks himself to be the ruler of Mars and commands the Mars Space Control. He has a crew that has captain Omega, Lieutenant Iota and Sergeant Oop and apprentice Noodle. As he is from Mars, he considers books as communication sandwiches. He likes to be praised because of his intelligence and authority. He smacks his mirror as it delays in praising him. He boasts of his intelligence and power but decides to evacuate his planet and escape as soon as he gets to know that the people from Earth had planned to take control of Mars.

3. Explain how does a mere book Mother Goose, a book of nursery rhymes actually save the earth from the Martian attack.

Ans. The old, dusty book of nursery rhymes was 'Mother Goose'. Think-Tank wanted to invade Earth. He had sent Probe One to get more information about the Earthlings. The crew enters a library. There, after taking vitamins, they take out 'Mother Goose' and decipher the rhymes.

The rhymes are misinterpreted as threats by Think-Tank. After listening to the first rhyme, 'Mistress Mary', he concluded that Earthlings had discovered how to combine agriculture and mining. The second rhyme, 'Hey Diddle, Diddle', seemed to suggest to him that the Earthlings might be launching an interplanetary attack of millions of cows. The third rhyme, 'Humpty Dumpty' wherein Humpty had a great fall and its picture that resembled him threatened him and his planet Mars. He got so scared that he dropped the idea of invading Earth, and escaped to Alpha Centauri. Thus, a book of nursery rhymes saved Earth from Martian invasion.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

Answer the following questions.

1. Why was the twentieth century called the 'Era of the Book'?
2. Who is addressed as the most powerful and intelligent creature?
3. What is the storage barn mentioned by Iota?
4. What are the Martians' views about Earthlings?
5. How does Oop describe the sandwich he ate?
6. Why does Iota remark that Earthlings have sharper ears?
7. The Martians consider books as sandwiches. Their views about the use of books keep changing. What are the various uses mentioned?
8. What helped the space people to increase their intelligence?
9. 'People resort to electronic media these days.' Do you support this statement? Why?
10. How does Think-Tank interpret the nursery rhyme 'Hey Diddle, Diddle'?
11. How does one dusty old book of nursery rhymes save Earth from a Martian invasion?



Important Notes